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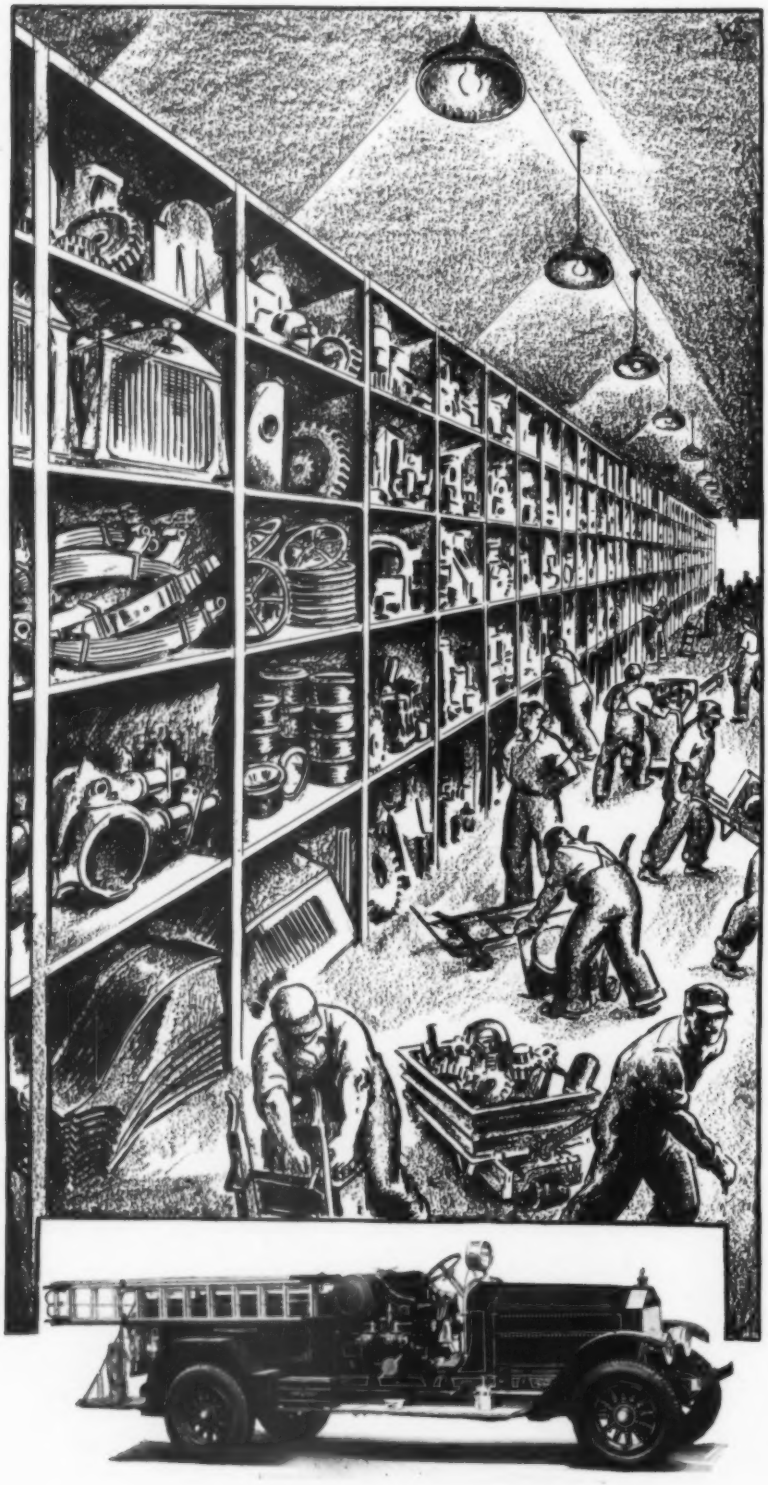

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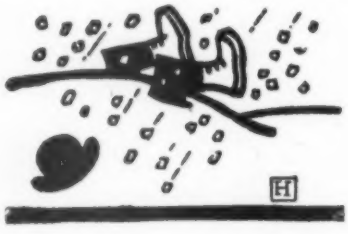

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¶ In fact, they have come in faster than time and space permit our answering them, though we are catching up as fast as we can and simply ask your indulgence until we can come to *your* question.

¶ Meanwhile, we hope you are finding the other fellow's questions interesting and helpful.

The Publishers

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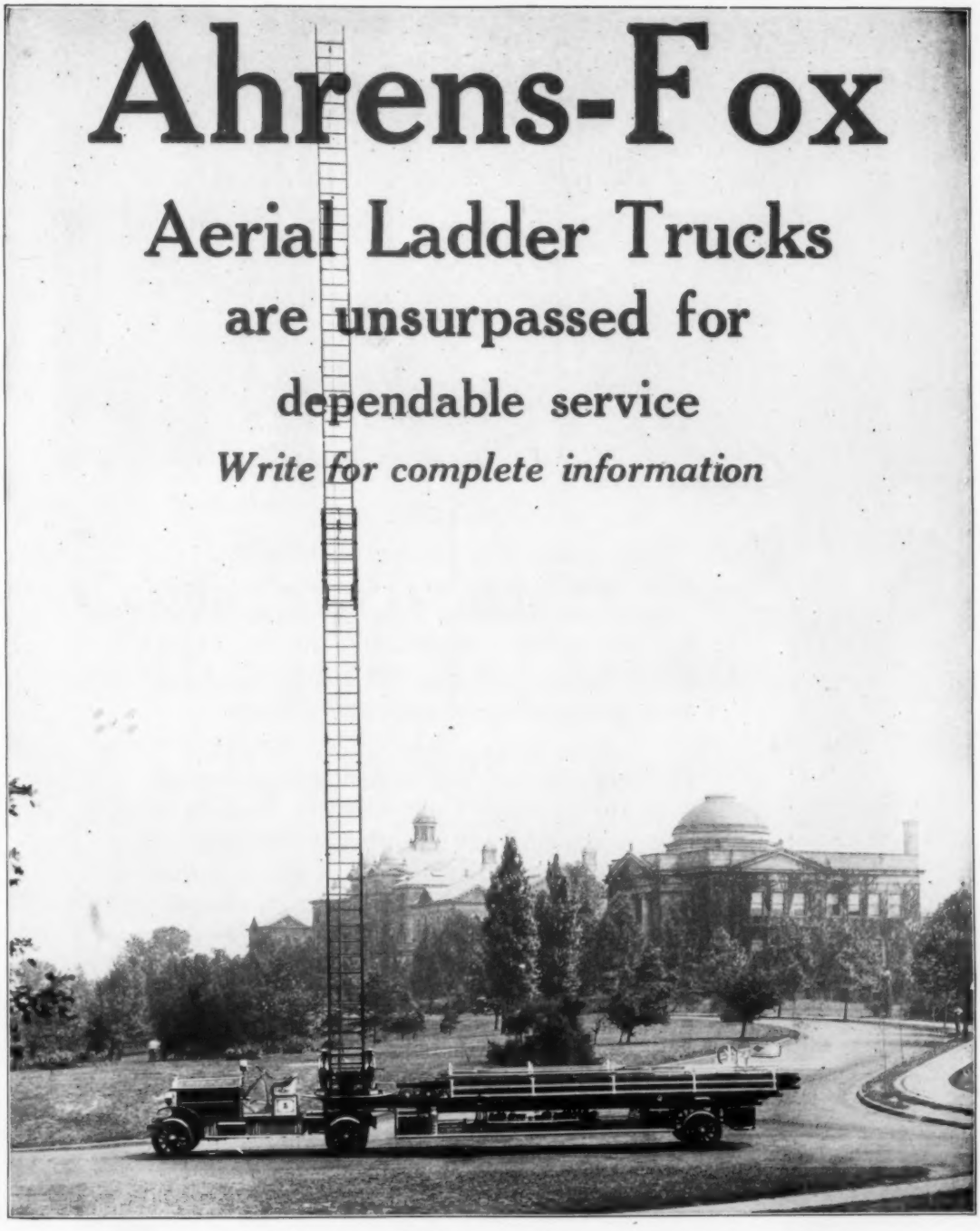

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(A Consolidation of Fire and Water Engineering and The Fire Engineer)

The Journal of the Fire Protection Profession

VOLUME LXXXI MAY 2, 1928 NUMBER 9

Should Small Cities Do Salvage Work?

Fire Departments of Such Cities Can Easily Adopt Salvage Systems at Small Expense—Personnel and Equipment Needed

By EDWARD F. CLARK, Fire Department, Rockford, Ill.

IN sending in the following, Mr. Clark writes to FIRE ENGINEERING: *"Some time ago I noticed an inquiry regarding the operation of property salvage units by departments of the smaller cities. As this is a subject that I have been studying with considerable interest, I am submitting this article hoping to obtain criticism on it from the salvage men of other cities and also hoping that it may be of some small interest to those interested in this work.*

In order to clarify our view point it might be well to define the word salvage as it is understood here. Salvage, as we are taught, is the science of protecting, from the ravages of fire, flood, and the elements, all property of value that is placed under the jurisdiction of the fire department in time of trouble. This property not only includes the contents of buildings so jeopardized but also the buildings themselves.

Should the City Department Do Salvage Work?

For many years there has been debated throughout the country the question of the responsibility of a city fire department regarding the work of property salvage. Many chiefs maintained, and still do, that this work was a function of the insurance companies and that it had no place in fire department activities, holding that these should be confined to the work of fire extinguishment. This, we believe, is not true. The duty of the fire department is to serve the city, to which it belongs, to the best of its ability in the protection of life and property and taken from this angle no department is fulfilling its trust unless some form of salvage work is employed.

Assuming this to be a fact, let us consider what should be done to obtain the greatest amount of salvage efficiency with the means usually at the disposal of the small department. It is evident that the following fundamentals must be taken into consideration: 1st, funds available; 2nd, the number of men that can be assigned to salvage operations; 3rd, transportation of equipment; 4th, the hazards involved; and 5th, the facilities for training.

Few Funds to Provide for Salvage

It may be safely said that no small department is provided with funds greatly exceeding the current needs and from this it can be seen that what is done must be accomplished with such apparatus and men as can be diverted to the work by doubling up on the company fire duty and with equipment purchased with the savings made on the money appropriated for the other branches of the department.

Use of Small Hose

In our city the problem was solved in this manner. Under the direction of the Fire Chief, Thomas D. Blake, the department officials made a study of salvage methods. It was seen from the first that the greatest amount of damage resulted from the excessive use of water at fires and that in correcting this an amazing drop in the fire loss would develop. With this fact in view they adopted the one and one-half inch hose line for use at smaller fires, equipping each engine company with one hundred feet of this hose. A five-eighths inch nozzle for use with the line and the necessary reducing couplings to make the connection to the two and a half inch hose, that forms the standard load of the companies, was also provided.

It was found that the ordinary roof and attic fire and even small store fires could be successfully handled with these lines, and that by laying from the fire to the hydrant, as the practice is here, and dropping off at the fire, a hundred and fifty feet of two and a half inch

"MONEY spent in salvage equipment is well spent and we feel that in providing for this service we have taken a step forward. The cost of salvage equipment is not prohibitive, the outlay consisting of a few covers and tools for the protection of property."

hose, in addition to the small line, the companies could back themselves up with a large stream if necessary.

The advantages of using the small line are several. The first of these is the amount of water used; the second, is the mobility and speed that can be obtained by the use of a line this size, and third, it was found possible to release a man from each line for salvage or other duties. By doing this the amount of cover needed was reduced to the minimum and the men necessary for the work were provided.

Truck Companies Equipped with Salvage Covers

The second step was to equip the truck companies with twelve salvage covers of light but water proof material, twelve by eighteen feet in size, and with squeeges, brooms, mops, shovels, boring tools and the like for handling water and protecting the contents of buildings against drenching. There was also added six wagon covers with hammers and nails of an approved type to be used in covering doors, windows, and roofs to protect the buildings and contents from the elements. Soon after tar-paper was added to the equipment as it was found that small holes could be covered just as effectively with this material and at a much lower cost.

Officers Sent to Patrol School

The officers of the truck companies were sent to the Chicago Patrol school for the course of instruction and on their return they were charged with the instruction of the men detailed for salvage work. The result was that at every fire there are three or four men available for salvage work, who have been trained in their duties and are capable of conducting operations without special direction.

That the result of these operations is worth the cost of equipment and training is shown by the salvage at a roof and attic fire in this city some time ago. When the department arrived at the fire they found the roof and attic of the building fully ablaze. The truck company immediately on arrival, set the necessary ladders for two lines. Leaving two men to assist the engine companies into position, the remainder of the company proceeded to the floors below the roof with covers. Assisted by the engine company men, who could be spared, they covered so successfully that no water passed below the covered floor though the lines were used for a period of over twenty minutes. Of course it is understood that the conditions at this fire were ideal but even so the amount of property saved was worth many times the cost of the equipment used and the actual loss was astonishingly low.

Good Design for Combined Fire Station and City Hall

The combined fire station and city hall in Vernon, Cal., a short distance from Los Angeles, is a good example of municipal architecture. The city administration is quartered in the left section of the building. The fire department has been in operation since March, 1926, and consists of one chief, two captains, and eight men working on the two platoon system with ten and fourteen hour shifts. Apparatus drills are held once each week and sometimes more often. The chief often takes the men out to inspect buildings and directs their attention to the proper means for extinguishing a hypothetical fire there. The city has sixty-one fire alarm boxes on a ten-circuit Gamewell fire alarm system.

Money Expended on Salvage Needs is Well Spent

This is one of the cases that have proven to us that the money spent in salvage equipment is money well spent and that in providing this service we have taken a step forward in making our department efficient. Considered from this angle the cost of salvage equipment is not prohibitive; the outlay consisting of a few covers and tools for the protection of property and the handling of water. The covers should be in two classes, those used for inside cover work and those used for roofs. They should be kept separate and of course the inside covers should be kept clean for a dirty cover can not be used to protect silk or clothing with good results. A wash rack should be provided for washing and drying covers; also a room or rack for the storage of extra covers.

Drills and Number of Men Needed

The methods of training a squad for salvage work has been standardized by the Insurance Patrol Schools and it is usually possible to get instruction and ideas from this source. However the drills should be adapted to the needs of the fire department in question and should be the result of a careful study of the subject.

As to the number of men necessary for efficient work it must be remembered that the work should be accomplished by men covering in pairs as this is the way the greatest number of covers can be spread. Taking this into consideration not less than two men should be provided and as many more as the strength of the department will permit.

Equipment and Transportation

The problem of transportation can be solved by a study of the running cards of the companies. The salvage equipment should be on hand at every fire and should be readily available. Here we use the hook and ladder companies as they fulfill the requirements in this respect and these companies are carefully trained in salvage work.

To sum up, the work of salvage is one of the basic operations of the fire department and one that should receive equal consideration with fire prevention and fire extinguishment. And it is believed that the adoption of salvage work as a part of the regular duties of the department is a step in the direction of greater efficiency.

English Type Station for Bristol

Plans are being drawn for a fire station of the residential type to be erected in Bristol, Conn. It will be designed along English lines. The drawings are not complete, but general features of the new building have been made public.

The building will be T-shape. It will be two stories in height, the first floor will be of brick and the second floor constructed of stucco. Actual work on the station will probably start in about a month. The city has appropriated $36,500 for its construction, but it is believed that the building will be erected for less.

Ex-Chief H. P. Packard of Attleboro, Dead—Funeral services were held on March 30 for H. P. Packard, ex-chief of Attleboro, Mass. A funeral escort formed at the Central Fire Station and marched to his late home on Hope street.

Drill Schools Making Better Firemen

Increased Efficiency Is Attained by Means of a Thorough Course of Instruction—Some Excellent Suggestions for Such a School

By CHIEF J. G. SARRAN, Fire Department, San Antonio, Tex.*

THERE can be no argument against the advantages of the drill school for firemen. Proper perfection in all matters of fire-fighting is practically impossible for the fire department without some system of training for the men. Chief Sarran presents some important and useful hints along the lines of his experiences in the following paper:

Every community worthy of the name has some form of fire protection, but mere men and equipment will not serve to prevent or reduce our tremendous fire losses. It requires something additional. True, we must provide apparatus to fight fire with, but to obtain maximum and permanent results, we must also have well-trained men to do the actual work. In a single word—"Efficiency." That one word means much to all of us, and the degree in which we enjoy it, assures just so much safety and contentment.

If "Efficiency" is so all-important in fire department work, then how shall we obtain this desideratum. I will strive to tell how we handle the situation in San Antonio, Texas, my home town. It is often said that San Antonio is remarkably fortunate in never suffering any great fire loss, year after year, but let me say that it is something more than "good luck" which has established our enviable record.

What Drill School Has Done for Department

We have a drill school in our Fire Department and it is not a new thing; it has been operating for years, and the wonderful results, which challenge general admiration, speak loudly in its praise.

We take the applicant who wants to be a Fireman (after being properly recommended for moral fitness) to *our* doctor, and give him a thorough physical examination—by that I mean a real examination, not a political one. If he is found sound and fit, he is admitted to our School of Instruction, where the Drill Master soon discovers his qualifications or lack of them.

Teach Respect and Obedience to Authority

The first lesson taught is respect for authority. The recruit is shown the importance of understanding an order and the necessity of properly carrying out same. This training naturally results in "Discipline," the applicant or student fireman fully grasping the purpose of such instruction, realizing that non-observance or indifference means failure and instant dismissal for him. And, no man of any moral fibre wants to be classed as a failure.

Course of Six Periods

Our course of instruction covers a period of 30 working days, divided into six parts of 5 days each, which I will briefly outline:

1st Period. Hose and coupling practice; proper use of various kinds of nozzles, cellar pipes and other appliances; how to roll up a section of hose to carry up a ladder, elevator or fire escape; taking a line of hose to top of building by use of hose and ladder roller and life line, using rolling hitch to prevent water being cut off; replacing a burst section of hose alongside a building.

2nd Period. Proper use of fire hydrants; proper way to catch same and proper use of such tools as combination hose spanner and hydrant wrench, hydrant wrench, hose spanner, hose suspender; proper signals for turning on and shutting off water; and proper signal for pump pressure.

3rd Period. Proper way to operate all motor pumpers; how to handle nozzle under pressure; and also use of shut-off and controlling nozzle under pressure; how to lay lines of hose into turret pipe, and the handling of high pressure streams.

4th Period. Proper use of all ladders in the department with practice on 85-foot aerial ladder on various buildings in the city; placing different kinds of ladders on buildings and sending men over the top; how to send ladders to top of building with life line; proper way to hold National Life Saving Machine and instructions to men how to jump into net.

5th Period. Pompier ladder Drills, viz: Building chain of ladders, straddling sills, standing in sills, swinging window to window, and also life line drill with demonstrations of proper use of life line gloves.

6th Period. Teaching city water supply; teaching fire alarm system; fire department knots; first aid to injured showing: use of bandages and splints; proper way to control arterial bleeding; artificial respiration—Schaeffer and Sylvester method—and also H & H Inhalator; name and use of all tools and appliances used in department.

Course Will Result in Well Trained Personnel

This is a very comprehensive course of instruction, and if your men are regularly and thoroughly drilled you

"THE course of instruction covers a period of thirty working days, divided into six parts, of five days each. The first lesson taught is respect for authority. The recruit is shown the importance of understanding an order and the necessity for properly carrying it out."

* Excerpts from a paper read before the Southwestern Association of Fire Chiefs, at Texarkana, Tex.

will have a well-trained personnel and as long as it is kept up you will have real "Efficiency" in the department.

Benefits of Regular Fire Inspection

I want to refer to the great benefits and value of regular fire inspection. No matter how good a fire department we may have in men and equipment, the maximum results cannot be obtained without full co-operation of the good people of the community. We all know that carelessness causes most of our fires, and therefore it becomes the bounden duty of every Chief to remove and reduce as many fire hazards as possible and this can only be done satisfactorily by regular, rigid fire inspections of our public buildings, places of business generally, and warehouses and factories particularly.

When by frequent inspections you have shown the business man the need of eliminating every fire hazard and by courteous instruction convinced him of its vast benefits, you will receive his earnest and sincere co-operation and then watch the fire losses decrease.

Therefore let us resolve to increase Efficiency in our department and invite public co-operation in our work so that we may better serve our communities.

New Chicopee Station Has Unique Features

Chicopee, Mass., has recently opened a new fire house in the Aldenville district of that city. The station is located advantageously and very attractive in design. This building is in keeping with its residential surroundings and was built at a cost of $30,000. Economy was necessary. Several modern stations were visited and were closely examined. Chiefs in those cities gave their ideas as to how certain details might be improved. These suggestions were considered before proceeding with the plans.

The building, as finally constructed, has been praised by many visiting chiefs and firemen. It houses two pieces of apparatus on the main floor and has individual sleeping rooms on the second floor with a large and attractive lounge room.

Only enough cellar room has been provided to care for the boiler room and coal bunker. The first story walls are of a

New Fire House in Chicopee, Mass.

dark glazed brick and the floor is of concrete with a Master Builder's hardener and a carborundum rubbed finish.

Hose racks are located on one wall, and this method is proving most satisfactory.

A kitchen on the second floor enables the men to prepare light luncheons on their long day on duty. This city is on the two platoon system.

The toilet has a terrazzo floor, vitreous china lavatories, marble shower stalls and metal toilet partitions. The exterior of the station is of a Pennsylvania vertical scored tapestry brick laid in black mortar, with cast stone trimmings.

The entire building, including plumbing, steam heating, electrical work, fire alarm apparatus, furniture, grading, walks, approaches, and architect fees, was built for less than twenty thousand dollars.

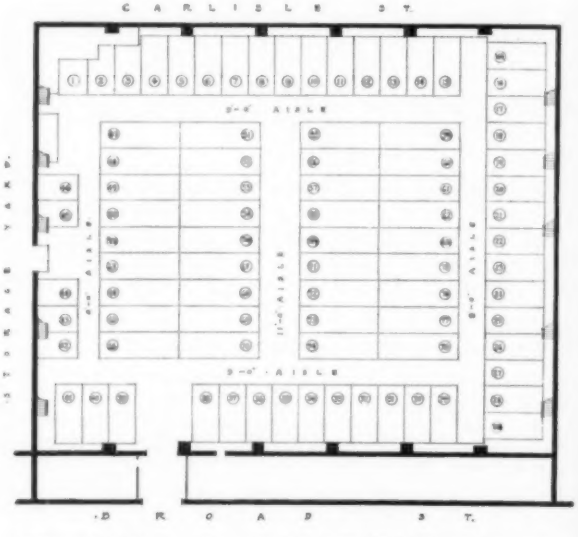
The cubic foot cost of the general construction, including heating, plumbing and electrical work, was twenty-four cents.

Chief Arthur Montmeny, of Chicopee, is receiving congratulations on the fine appearance of the building.

HARRY BELKNAP.

Allotting Space at I. A. F. C. Exhibits.

Chief August Gerstung, Elizabeth, N. J., chairman of the exhibit committee is receiving applications for space in the exhibit hall of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Convention that will be held in Philadelphia, Pa., on October 15–20.



Plan of Exhibition Space at 108th Field Artillery Armory

The exhibits will be arranged in the 108th Field Artillery Armory, Broad and Diamond streets, according to the diagram.

The rental is ten cents a square foot. Twenty-five per cent of the rental charge must be deposited when the application for space is signed. The balance is payable on or before October 15, 1928. The rental does not cover the cost of booth construction, nor will the committee be held liable for goods stolen or damaged while in the exhibit hall.

No oil or gasoline engines may be operated under their own power in the armory. Exhibitors who desire to turn over their engines must do so with the aid of an electric motor.

Exhibition Drill Held at Radcliffe

An exhibition drill for the benefit of members of the class in municipal government in Radcliffe College was given in the yard at fire headquarters, Bristol Street, Boston, Mass., on April 17, by the drill squad, working under direction of Captain Daniel H. Baker.

The evolutions were as follows:

No. 1—Raise 30-foot ladder and dog same; No. 2—Raise 65-foot foot ladder and dog same; No. 3—Run 2 lines of 100 feet each to deluge set; No. 4—Run one line 150 feet from deluge set over 65-foot ladder to 6th floor; No. 5—Run 200 feet of line from hydrant up fire escape to roof; No. 6—Carry lifeline to roof and haul hose over hoist; No. 7—Haul 25-foot ladder to roof; No. 8—Two men take Pompier ladder over 65-foot ladder to 6th floor; No. 9—Take down ladders; No. 10—Chain of eight Pompier ladders to 8th floor; No. 11—Single Pompier ladder to 8th floor; No. 12—Rope slide from 7th floor; No. 13—Double rope slide; No. 14—Carry man down 30 foot ladder; No. 15—Jumping into life-net.

Chief Sennott acted as host at the drill which was witnessed by many persons in addition to the college class.

Bellingham Delays Pumper Action—Bellingham, Wash., has not taken any action on the four bids submitted for supplying a pumper.

Lebanon, Pa., After Offending Motorists—Action will be taken in Lebanon, Pa., to stop the practice of motorists blocking fire apparatus responding to a fire alarm. The speed of fire apparatus has been set at twenty-five miles an hour.

Would Outside Aid Have Helped?

Nearest Large Department 42 Miles Away—Huge Warehouse Blaze and Fire Spreading Fast

THE fire described in this article of the series on administration might well have been classed a metropolitan fire, with a town department operating on it.

A huge building 1,000 feet long, 165 feet wide, with no fire stops and crowded to the roof with farm implements both in crates and unpacked would make a blaze worthy of a big city fire force. In this case, however, three companies with practically the entire personnel made up of volunteers, were faced with the task of holding this fast spreading fire.

The town in which this fire occurred has a population of 7,800. It is located in the mid-west farming section and has a first class water system. The implement warehouse, the building involved in this fire, was located on the outskirts of the city and was supplied with fire protection by a single 6-inch main, having two hydrants alongside the implement warehouse. It was 1800 feet from the warehouse to the nearest cross connection with the city system.

Pressure in the main, except under heavy draft, was around 70 pounds. However, when two engines got operating on the two hydrants, the pressure dropped appreciably.

The Fire Department

The department, as noted above, consisted almost entirely of volunteers, there being but two men paid, the chief and one driver.

Engine Co. No. 1 was equipped with a triple combination machine, of 750 gallon capacity; Engine Co. No. 2, triple combination of 500 gallon capacity; Hose Co. No. 1, equipped with automobile hose car carrying 2,000 feet of hose.

The total enrolled membership in the department was about 150.

Description of Property Involved

The diagram herewith shows the layout of the plant and surrounding buildings.

The implement warehouse, as noted above, was 1,000 feet long and 165 feet wide.

Directly south of this building were a lumber yard well stocked with lumber; an artificial fertilizer works and a one story frame freight shed.

The fertilizer works was also of frame construction.

The implement warehouse was of brick construction with wooden roof covered over by "tin" sheathing and tar and gravel on top of this.

In the southeast corner of the warehouse was a heating plant and at the eastern end of the building, adjacent to the heating plant, was a coal storage yard well filled with coal at the time of the fire.

South of the fertilizer works was a group of frame dwellings and north of the implement warehouse were about 15 frame houses scattered over four blocks.

The Fire

The fire started about 7 o'clock on a still, cold March evening when the warehouse had just been filled to the doors with farm equipment. It was discovered by a clerk in the freight shed to the south and immediately reported to the fire department by telephone.

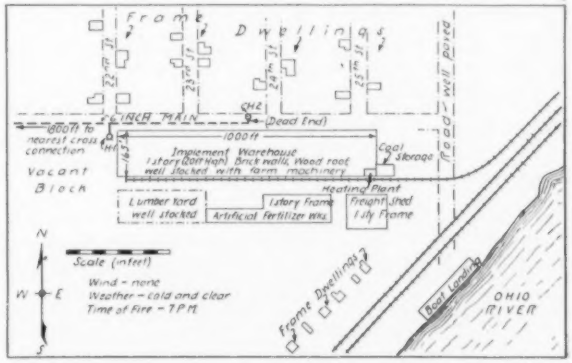
The three companies responded, all well manned by volunteers, and following the arrival of the apparatus a number of private cars rolled in carrying volunteer firemen.

The chief came with Engine Co. No. 1 and placed this engine at hydrant No. 2, ordering two lines stretched to the north side of the building into the fire. At the time of the arrival of the department fire had gained considerable headway in the eastern end of the implement warehouse, burning chiefly through the crates enclosing the farm implements. Up beneath the ceiling a bank of smoke had accumulated and it was apparent that it would be but a short time until the woodwork of the roof would take fire.

The heat was quite intense and the lines sent in from Engine Co. No. 1 were forced to remain at the doors and operate from this position.

Engine Co. No. 2 was stationed at hydrant No. 1, and a single line stretched through the west entrance to the implement warehouse.

This line proceeded into the building about 300 feet and due to the intense heat, had to operate low, taking a chance at the streams striking the fire which was



working its way through the great mass of farm equipment.

Members of Hose Co. No. 1 assisted in getting these lines in operation.

But no headway was apparent against the fire with this lineup. The great width of the building the immense length, and the fast burning nature of the crates quickly illustrated the futility of the efforts of the department.

An attempt was made to check the fire in its progress through the equipment, but the fact that the department had to operate from a distance made it impossible to hold the blaze from spreading. In addition, the roof rafters were taking fire.

After operating for possibly 15 minutes in the manner described above, the chief ordered Engine Co. No. 1 moved to the boat landing southeast of the plant. Two lines were stretched from Engine Co. No. 1 and from hydrant No. 2 two hydrant lines were stretched by members of Hose Co. No. 1, using the hose of this company.

By this arrangement 5 lines were in operation on the fire.

A good fight was put up but the fire had too much of a start for the department to check it and soon the entire interior of the warehouse was ablaze, including the implements, crates, and roof of the structure.

When it was definitely decided that the building and contents were beyond saving, lines were shifted to the south of the plant and endeavored to hold the blaze from reaching the lumber yard and the artificial fertilizer works, as well as the freight shed.

This might have been possible, had not the south wall collapsed near the west end shortly after the lines were shifted, exposing the lumber yard to the intense radiant heat from the fire within the warehouse.

Soon the lumber yard took fire and then with the subsequent collapse of the eastern end of the south wall, exposing the freight shed and fertilizer works, gave the department a task which it was not able to accomplish.

As a result, when the fire finally burned out, all four of these establishments had been leveled.

The use of one line on the dwellings north of the implement warehouse and one on the frame dwellings to the south prevented fire from involving these buildings.

The Editor's ideas on the handling of this fire will be given in the next issue of this journal.

Detroit Fights Fire on 46th Floor

Detroit now has the altitude record for fires—the forty-sixth floor of the new unfinished Penobscot Building on the southwest corner of Griswold and Fort, owned by the Murphy Family Trusts, the family of C. Hayward Murphy, president of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Detroit.

The building is forty-seven stories high. It is expected that it will be ready for occupancy late this summer or early fall. The fire probably started from a bucket of coal left at the base of the beacon tower at the forty-seventh floor level on the steel contractor's planking, contrary to orders. The forge was emptied at five o'clock in the evening of April 18th, the coal having been deposited in a steel bucket. It is believed that a wind of fifty-five miles velocity tipped the forge over which in turn upset the bucket. At all events, a smashed bucket was found amid the burned planking on the forty-sixth floor, where the fire was.

Commissioner Murphy, always interested in fire department work, had taken the precaution from the beginning of construction many months ago, of having a standpipe line erected as the building progressed although not required by law. Moreover, he personally wrote the orders and instructions for the contractor and the contractor's men as to what to do and how to do it in case of fire. These precautions were not in vain. A watchman discovered the fire at 1.36 a. m. on April 19th. He ran and snapped the hook in the nearest alarm box, then manned two elevators before the firemen arrived.

Assistant Chief Michael Callahan and Battalion Chief Fleischer arrived with Engines No. 1 and 2; Ladder Companies No. 1 and 3 and Rescue Co. No. 1. Five lengths of hose were placed on a material hoist and sent to the forty-fifth floor. The fireman took elevators to the thirtieth floor and then climbed the balance by stairway to the forty-third floor. From this point the wooden ladders of the steel erectors had to be depended on.

The line was back-stretched from the forty-sixth floor to the forty-second floor which is the highest standpipe connection. The fire was extinguished with one line. The total fire duty lasted about one hour. The damage was confined to about a half car load of planking. The steel structure was not damaged. The sparks covered the City Hall area of Detroit and attracted thousands of persons to the scene.

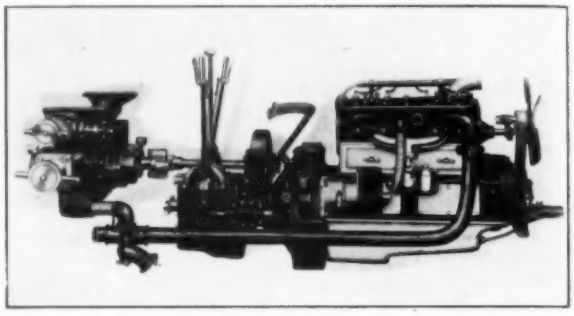
WM. JEROME DALY.

Le Mars, Ia., Department Reorganized—The fire department in Le Mars, Ia., has been reorganized. The chief will receive one hundred dollars a year payable quarterly. The force will consist of twenty-six men.

Sioux City May Move Fire Alarm Office—The fire alarm headquarters in Sioux City, Ia., may be moved from city hall to the municipal building, as a safety measure. Some of the units now in service may be replaced as some equipment has been in use for thirty-two years.

Fire Apparatus Manufactured in Japan

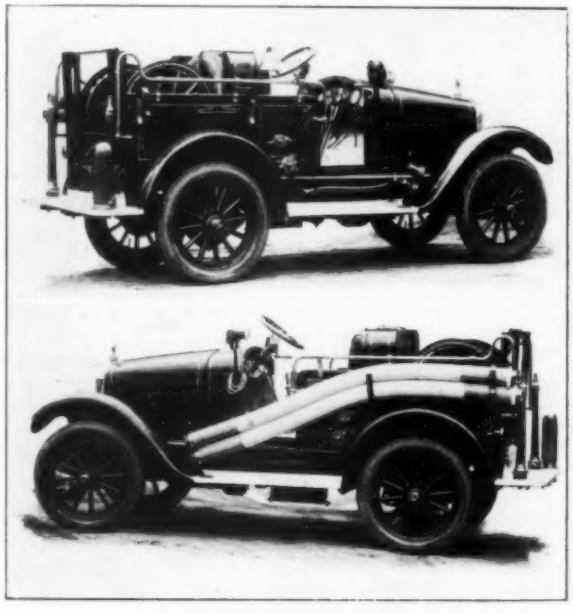
A new foreign company has started the manufacture of fire apparatus. It is the Suzuki Fire Engine Manufacturing Company of Japan, and it indicates the way that municipalities in



Motor and Pump of the Suzuki Fire Apparatus

that country are adopting American and European fire-fighting methods.

In far off Japan, streets are narrow and the majority of the buildings are low in height. They have little need for the very powerful pumpers or high ladders so common in American fire departments. This company has developed a machine with a small wheel base for quick manouvering in the congested thoroughfares. It is only eleven and one-half feet long as compared to the wheel base of an American 750-gallon pumper which is nearly sixteen feet or nearly seventeen feet for the still larger size.



Fire Apparatus Built in Japan

Two views of truck built by the Suzuki Fire Engine Manufacturing Company (Suzuki Seisakusho) in Japan. The apparatus is compact and designed according to the following dimensions: extreme length eleven and one-half feet; extreme width, four feet, eight inches; pump capacity, 250 gallons a minute.

Boswell, Pa., to Entertain Convention—Boswell, Pa., has started to make plans for the entertainment of the Somerset County Firemen's Association to be held July 18-21. Last year the convention was held at Rockwood.

Clayton, N. Y., Tests New Pumper—The first of the two new pumpers supplied by the Sanford Motor Truck Co., of Syracuse for Clayton, N. Y., has passed the Underwriters' test. The other pumper will be delivered in about thirty days.

WITH THE EDITOR

The "Oldest" Fire Engine

No sooner does a reader of FIRE ENGINEERING announce the possession by his department or city of the oldest fire apparatus in existence in this country, than along comes another claimant for this honor, with a still earlier date of origin for his engine.

It is no wonder that keen interest centers in these claims of priority for fire apparatus, as there hovers over these old veterans of the fire protection service a glamor of romance unexcelled by any other type of human device. How proud were the early fire-fighters of these machines! How bravely the firemen of those old days paraded behind the men honored with the holding of the ropes pulling the rattling old machines, and how they envied these same men at the ropes!

No doubt there are other old apparatus collecting dust in the storerooms of fire departments throughout the country. This should stimulate the members to once more wheel out the old machine and send in its picture, so as to honor an old inanimate veteran of the fire service.

"Pay as You Go" in Fire Protection

Those communities which rely upon neighboring towns for fire protection should take notice of the action of a small New York State village which has just decided that any of its neighbors which desire the services of its fire department, must be prepared to pay for them.

The village in question is situated in the Delaware Valley and is surrounded by rural communities which have no fire protection. Each of these suburbs has heretofore expected fire department service from the village, and as the country about is rough and hilly, this has proved expensive and a tax upon the local department.

The case of this town is by no means an isolated one. Suburban communities of small population, situated outside of city or village limits are very prone to expect and request free protection, unless they are given thoroughly to understand that such service must be paid for at rates proportionate to the amount which the use of the fire department in similar service costs the city or village.

Such a charge is eminently just and proper. There is no just reason why certain people living outside of the limits of the municipality should receive service free for which the taxpayers within the boundaries are compelled to pay.

The plan adopted by the village in question to insure payment for the services of the fire department is covered by an old ordinance, recently revived. This law calls for a deposit from each community desiring protection of three hundred dollars, as guarantee that the services of the fire department will be paid for in case of a call for help. If no such amount is deposited, no assistance will be given.

There is no more reason why a city or town should supply free fire department aid to individuals outside their boundaries, than that it should supply such persons with free water, gas or electricity when these are municipal functions. The fire department is maintained by the taxpayers of the city, and they alone are entitled to its services. If the department, or any part of it, is sent outside, the town protection is just so much weakened—a dangerous state of affairs in case a bad local fire occurs simultaneously.

A remedy for the present lack of rural protection, and one which is proving successful wherever tried, is for the farmers and other suburbanites to purchase a truck for their own use. This apparatus is often housed in one of the city's fire houses and, in this case, is usually manned by members of the local fire department. The city, in consideration for this service, is given the use of the fire engine in emergencies.

Besides avoiding the necessity for drawing upon the city apparatus for outside fires, this plan has another very important advantage: it avoids possible nullifying of insurance which has been done on the ground that by this withdrawing of regular apparatus the town is left unprotected during the period that the engines are away on outside duty. Providing an engine not a part of the city department for this work, avoids any such action on the part of the insurance interests.

Fire Alarm Boxes for Small Institutions

A law recently passed by the New York State Legislature and signed by Governor Smith, embodies a very important proviso that should do much to increase the fire protection of hospitals, orphanages and schools, which sometimes are lamentably careless in such matters. The ordinance makes it mandatory for all institutions of this character, whether publicly, privately or parochially owned, where there is an electrically operated fire alarm system in the fire department, to install a fire alarm box. In the case of the hospital or orphanage, the law applies to all having over ten inmates.

An ordinance of this kind is important in that it provides for a quick and accurate notification of the city fire department, without the dangers and uncertainties incident to the combination of the telephone and the

human element. A child, once properly instructed, can pull an alarm box in case of fire, while even an adult, in the stress of great excitement, is apt to become incoherent when using the telephone and defeat the very object intended—that of quickly summoning the fire department.

The small expense incident to the placing of the box—which, according to the new law, must be borne by the institution installing it—has no comparison with the added security involved in this safeguard.

Detroit Fire Buffs Get Helmets

The Box 12 Associates of Detroit gathered for their monthly meeting on Friday evening, April 20, at the residence of the association's chief, Paxton Mendelssohn. Practically the entire membership was present, including Chief Stephen DeMay as the association's guest.

Paxton Mendelssohn

The Box 12 Associates have been in existence a little over a year, having for this period held meetings at the various residences of the members, who, in turn have been host of the association. However, in order to make the club more stable and with less inconvenience to the membership, it was unanimously voted than henceforth all meetings would be held at the Detroit-Leland Hotel of which Bill Chittenden, one of the club's members, is resident manager, and that meetings would be held on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of from June to September, inclusive.

One of the features of the meeting was the unanimous election of Chief Stephen DeMay as an associate member of the Box 12. In his usual good form Chief DeMay made a delightful speech of appreciation.

At the meeting Chief Mendelssohn announced that membership should be symbolized by a badge of office. Therefore, he has as chief of the association, arranged to present each member with a regulation leather fire helmet in black enamel with a white shield bearing the inscription "Box 12 Associates—Detroit," the helmets to be preserved as a momento of friendship and to be held in reserve and used by the member should they ever be called upon to act as aids of the fire department. It was announced that as "Jerry" Daly, the first honorary member of the club, lives in New York, that Chief Mendelssohn would make the presentation of Daly's helmet in person, when in New York next week.

A midnight lunch was served and the usual general line of fire chatter was one hundred per cent.

N. F. P. A. to Meet in Atlantic City

The thirty-second annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association will be held in the Haddon Hall, Atlantic City, N. J., May 7-10. There will be reports presented by the various committees who have been working during the year.

These will include public information, report from the U. S. Joint Fire Prevention Committee, report from the Canadian Joint Fire Prevention Committee, New York City committee report, farm fire protection, American Engineering Standards, automatic sprinklers, specifications for rubber lined fire hose, fire fighting equipment in mine fires, tanks, private fire supplies from public mains, small hose couplings, field practice, hydrants, valve and pipe fittings, fire pumps, protection against lightning, electrical committee report, electrical field service, signaling systems, electric power houses, zoning, fire marshals section, gases, blower systems, hazardous chemicals and explosives, salvaging operations, marine, storage or combustible fires.

Continuing, the other reports are protection of openings in walls and partitions, piers and wharves, safety to life, building construction, garages, protection of records, dust explosion hazards, visual education, fire resistance activities of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, fire prevention and clean-up campaign committee, fire record, N. F. P. A. field service, chamber of commerce and safety council section, flammable liquids, manufacturing risks and special hazards, and paint spraying.

Allen M. Schoen, of Atlanta, has been nominated for president and Frank C. Jordon, secretary of the Indianapolis Water Company for first vice-president. Franklin H. Wentworth is slated for secretary-treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Another Old Fire Engine

To the Editor:

In looking over your FIRE ENGINEERING for February 22, 1928, on page 150 it shows one of the oldest fire engines in the United States. You might be interested in knowing that Guilford, Conn., has a very old fire engine also, that I believe must be older than the one shown, unless the one illustrated has been rebuilt. The engine shown has iron axles and hubs, while the one that we have here has the old wooden axles and large hubs. The boys remember when they had to carry water to the machine in pails and also remember when they placed on the suction hose. The old leather hose that they had then has not been saved. The pump is still here and I feel that they ought to find out the history of it for record.

We have in fact two old engines the other one being a larger one mounted on four small wheels and this one also had to have the water placed into it by buckets. They are both old timers and I believe that they would be of interest.

Yours truly,

F. E. INGALS.

Stretching Hose to Thirtieth Floor

To the Editor:

Perhaps some may not agree with my plan for stretching hose to the thirtieth floor of a building. I can not suggest the exact method as I do not know the tools carried on New York Fire Department apparatus. However, with four hundred feet of rope and a few men, it will not be a difficult task to stretch a line to the thirtieth floor of a building.

Chief Heffernan uses the company that goes to the twenty-ninth floor to carry three lengths of 2½-inch hose, two lengths of 3-inch hose, one hose roller, one axe, one roof rope, one six-foot hook and a shut-off nozzle. These men will surely have to be in perfect condition to do this, and if one doesn't believe so, let one try climbing twenty-nine stories even without carrying anything.

I suggest that the company to the twenty-ninth floor be the first one as this is the hardest assignment. Let them take four hundred feet of rope and a hose roller. When they arrive on the twenty-ninth floor, pay out the rope until it reaches the sidewalk.

All the necessary connections are to be made on the sidewalk and a rope tied about ten feet back from the nozzle on the 2½-inch line. The line is hauled up. After three lengths have been passed up on the 3-inch line, the line is pulled up until sufficient hose has been brought up. This will make an emergency standpipe but constructed with a much simpler method.

Assign the men of the various companies to different floors so that they might ease up on the line as it passes the window of the floor to which they are assigned. The only tools these men need are a six-foot hook to fish in the rope if necessary and a hose rope to make the line fast when the stretch has been completed. One continuous line will not be too heavy if a man on each floor does his share in lifting.

The second engine company that arrives may be used to stretch two 3-inch lines in front of the building from the nearest hydrant and then siamese these lines on the sidewalk to one 3-inch line. The men are to remain on the sidewalk to make necessary connections with these hose lines and to get the water when needed.

The method suggested could also be used through elevator shafts or stairways to good advantage.

I hope that this may solve some of the brothers' troubles.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM IMHOFF,
San Francisco, Cal.

N. J. Fire Chiefs Will Meet in Irvington—The next meeting of the New Jersey Fire Chiefs' Association will be held in Irvington, N. J., on Thursday, May 31 at 10:30 a. m.

Questions and Answers

NOTE—Readers are invited to send in questions, which will be answered in the order received. Names are omitted from questions unless otherwise specified.

Uniform Regulations

To the Editor:

As a point of information I would like you to answer the following questions through your Questions and Answers column.

Is it proper for a volunteer fireman to wear his badge when taking part in the following:

Funeral of a deceased member.
Parade on February 22nd in Kings County.
Parade on May 30th in our own village.
Parade on July 4th in our own village.
Parade in Mardi Gras in Coney Island, Brooklyn.

I shall look forward with interest to receiving your comments on the above.

H. G. A.

Answer: The questions you ask depend entirely upon your local regulations. Some volunteer fire departments permit the badge to be worn only while on departmental business; still others prohibit the wearing of the uniform, or any part thereof, by any member of the department at any place of amusement, ball, party, or public assembly of any character unless on department business.

On the other hand, attendance at funerals may be considered departmental business where a member of a company dies. In this case full uniform is worn, and the insignia of office must not be covered by crape worn as a badge of mourning.

The wearing of the badges on the other four cases you cite —parades—is a question which is entirely up to your own department and should be covered by your rules and regulations. It would seem that the proper method of handling this would be to permit the wearing of badges when the members were parading within the town, such parade being a part of the local celebration, and prohibit the badges being worn outside of the town whether at parade or elsewhere.

Positive Displacement Priming Pumps

To the Editor:

We have in our station one 750-gallon centrifugal triple combination pumper, around which considerable discussion is involved.

We have searched through various operators' instruction books but have been unable to find a solution to the problem which is as follows:

"A" says that vacuum on priming pump of the above mentioned type is not of the centrifugal pump family.

"B" states that vacuum on priming pump of such apparatus is of the centrifugal pump family.

"A" gives the following reason for his argument: The air or water is drawn through the pump by expansion force and expelled by contraction force.

"B" argues that it has a centrifugal force for drawing air and water.

T. K. V.

Answer: "A" is correct. The vacuum on priming pumps as found on centrifugal fire department pumping engines is not of the centrifugal type. Let me quote from the instruction manual of the larger manufactures of motor fire apparatus:

"No centrifugal pump is positive in displacement, because no valves of any kind are used in its construction. The water passageways are continuous in both directions, hence, it does not have the ability in itself to create a vacuum or lift water. When it is desired to draft water, the pump must be primed from some outside source. On a ..... centrifugal pumping engine, a separate vacuum or priming pump is provided for this purpose. The priming pump is mounted on the front of the pump transmission case. It is thrown in and out of service by means of a sliding gear which is part of the clutch sleeve."

The priming pump is a positive displacement pump and while centrifugal force causes the blades to keep in tight contact with the housing, the centrifugal principle does not enter into the discharging of water from the pump in any manner whatsoever.

Hence "B" is incorrect in stating that the priming pump is of the centrifugal pump family.

Results Which Do Not Tally

To the Editor:

I would like your opinion on the following question: Is it proper to give false examples in hydraulics in fire department examinations, as shown in the following example which was given in a recent examination?

Question: Engine pressure 140 pounds, 12 length of 3 inch hose, 1¼ inch nozzle, 400 gallons discharge per minute. What is the nozzle pressure? What is the friction loss? Give work in detail.

My answers were 84 pounds friction loss and 51.9 pounds nozzle pressure. Both answers cannot be true, still using different formulae a supposedly correct answer is obtained. If the book constant 0.092 was used the answer 63 pounds nozzle pressure would be obtained.

I worked out my constant, 0.097, which is 0.001 too high, a slight error being made obtaining the above answer 51.9 pounds nozzle pressure.

Since the answers derived are only approximate, would you consider the answer 51.9 wrong?

M. W. T.

Answer: It is indeed unfortunate that in hydraulics as applied to the fire service, where practically all of the formulas are empirical—that is, developed from experimental results—different methods of solution may give entirely different answers. To illustrate this point, below are three solutions to the same problem, each giving a different result.

First solution: Use discharge formula for finding nozzle pressure.

Discharge $= 29.7 \times d \times d \times \sqrt{\text{pressure}}$

Putting the values we already know in this formula we get $400 = 29.7 \times 1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\text{pressure}}$

Solving down we find pressure = 8.61, and the square of this figure is therefore 74 pounds approximately.

Substracting the nozzle pressure from engine pressure (as the line is laid horizontal) we get a friction loss of 66 pounds approximately.

Second solution: Use the Underwriters' formula for finding nozzle pressure. Nozzle pressure = engine pressure ÷ (1.1 + K x L)

Putting the values in this formula we get N. P. = 140 ÷ (1.1 + .092 x 12) where .092 is the value of K for 1¼ inch tip on 3-inch hose, and 12 represents the number of 50 foot lengths in the line.

Solving this down we find nozzle pressure to be equal to 63.5 pounds.

Again finding friction loss by subtracting nozzle pressure from engine pressure, we find a friction loss of 76.5 pounds.

Third solution: Employ the friction loss formula to find the drop in pressure from the engine to the nozzle. Friction in 100 feet of 2½ inch hose = 2 x Q x Q + Q where Q is the flow in hundreds of gallons per minute.

First reduce the 600 foot line of hose to 2½ inch giving us 600 ÷ 2.6 or 231 feet or 2½ inch hose.

Friction in 100 feet of 2½ inch hose = 2 x 4 x 4 + 4 or 36 pounds.

Friction loss in 231 feet = 2.31 x 36 or 83.4 pounds.

Nozzle pressure then equals 140 — 83.1 or 56.9 pounds.

You will note by each of these solutions you get a different nozzle pressure and a different friction loss.

Some civil service commissioners oppose finding nozzle pressure by subtracting friction loss from engine pressure; likewise they are opposed to finding friction loss by subtracting nozzle from engine pressures.

If this is the case in your city, the only correct way of working the problem out (and this applies in New York and other large cities as well as yours) is to find the nozzle pressure as shown in the second solution — by employing the Underwriters' formula. Then find friction loss in the line of hose by use of the friction loss formula as given in the third solution.

You will find the nozzle pressure by the noted method to be 63.5 pounds and you will find the friction loss to be 83.1 pounds. Adding these two figures together we get 159.6 pounds as the total of friction loss and nozzle pressure. This is greater than the engine pressure and is accounted for by the fact that these formulas give only approximate results.

The writer personally prefers finding the friction loss in a line which is laid horizontal by subtracting the nozzle pressure from the engine pressure and this method is recognized by many commissions as being the most satisfactory.

It is doubtful, indeed, if any civil service examiner would penalize any candidate for employing it even though it does not make use of all formulas which are generally recognized in solving problems of this sort.

Finally, any one of the three methods given above should receive full credit even though the results differ. No one method can be said to be entirely correct to the exclusion of the others. Solution No. 1 is a very accurate method for finding nozzle pressure when the flow and diameter of nozzle are known, giving results which should tally more closely with actual results than the Underwriters' formula.

Hazards of Underground Oil Storage

To the Editor:

Will you kindly give me your opinion on the following:

A party wishes to install an underground storage gasoline tank of 15,000 gallons capacity, inside the city limits and one block from the main street. This proposed location is in a residential and warehouse district and is within 300 feet of city gas works and tanks.

They propose to unload the contents of a railroad tank car into this tank which is to be of the capacity stated above.

Have you any data on tank cars or underground tanks catching fire or blowing up and causing fire when filling underground tank from railroad cars.

What is the practice concerning visible gas pumps inside of buildings?

What concerns or individuals constitute the membership of the National Fire Protection Association?

Any information given on the above will be greatly appreciated. H. H.

Answer: While there are on record numerous instances where railroad tank cars filled with gasoline have taken fire due to leaky drain valve or other defects, we have no report of any fire having occurred when gasoline was being emptied from the railroad tank car into an underground tank. As a matter of fact, with present precautions, there is a slight chance of this occurring. When the underground tank is placed for filling direct from railroad tank cars, a perfect "ground" is provided by the flexible hose connecting the tank car to the underground tank filling pipe. This prevents the possibility of static electricity sparks igniting gas fumes which might be present around such fittings.

Railroad tank cars designed for carrying gasoline are so well built that there is indeed little danger of them taking fire, unless directly exposed to a fire of considerable intensity.

As far as the underground tank is concerned, there is a very slight possibility of an explosion ever occurring in this, and here is the reason: It requires quite a lean mixture of gasoline and air to make an explosive mixture and as there is always a surplus of gas fumes present, it is not often that a proper mixture for an explosion is found in such tanks. Fumes may take fire and burn violently but unless there is sufficient oxygen in the tank there will be no explosion.

Insofar as placement of the tank is concerned, a tank of 15,000 gallons capacity is safe if placed 30 feet away from the basement of the nearest building. It need only be buried so that the top of the tank is two feet below ground.

Relative to installation of visible gas pumps inside of buildings, this is considered in New York State a dangerous practice and is not permitted. All gasoline pumps intended for supplying automobiles in New York State must be set outside of buildings and away from combustible materials.

The National Fire Protection Association is an organization of individuals, manufacturers, and associations interested in fire protection. Their address is 40 Central Street, Boston, Mass.

Volatile Acids and Oils

To the Editor:

Having read on several occasions lately the term "volatile acids and oils," I am somewhat at sea over its proper meaning.

Will you, at your pleasure, kindly enlighten me on this term through your valuable paper.

I believe the term has been misused and think it was meant to be "volatile liquids."

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

T. J.

Answer: The term volatile means "readily vaporizable," or "easily wasted away by evaporation."

Thus the term could apply to any liquid whatsoever with that characteristic.

Possibly the expression "volatile liquids" is more commonly used than "volatile acids" or "volatile oils," but I can see no error in either of the latter expressions.

Calculating Nozzle Pressure

To the Editor:

Will you please inform me what the nozzle pressure will be on the following layout: Pump pressure 165 pounds, 200 feet of 1½ inch cotton rubber lined hose with ⅝-inch tip.. Also gallons flow per minute.

Thanking you in advance I am,

Z. P. T.

Answer: With a layout such as you suggest, 200 feet of 1½ inch cotton rubber lined hose with ⅝-inch tip, 165 pounds engine pressure, the calculations for nozzle pressure are as follows:

First reduce the 200 feet of 1½-inch hose to 2½-inch hose. This is done by dividing 200 by the factor for changing 1½ to 2½ inch hose, or 0.074.' 200 divided by 0.074 = 2,703 feet of 2½-inch hose.

The value of K (used in formula for finding nozzle pressure) is found by multiplying ⅝ by itself three times and dividing by 10 giving us a value of K, 0.01525.

L, the number of 50 foot lengths of hose in the line, equals 2703 divided by 50 or 54 approximately.

Nozzle pressure equals engine pressure divided by (1.1 plus K x L).

Putting the values in place of the symbols in this formula we get:

Nozzle pressure = 165 divided by (1.1 plus 0.01525 x 54)
= 165 divided by 1.9235
= 86 pounds nozzle pressure approximately.

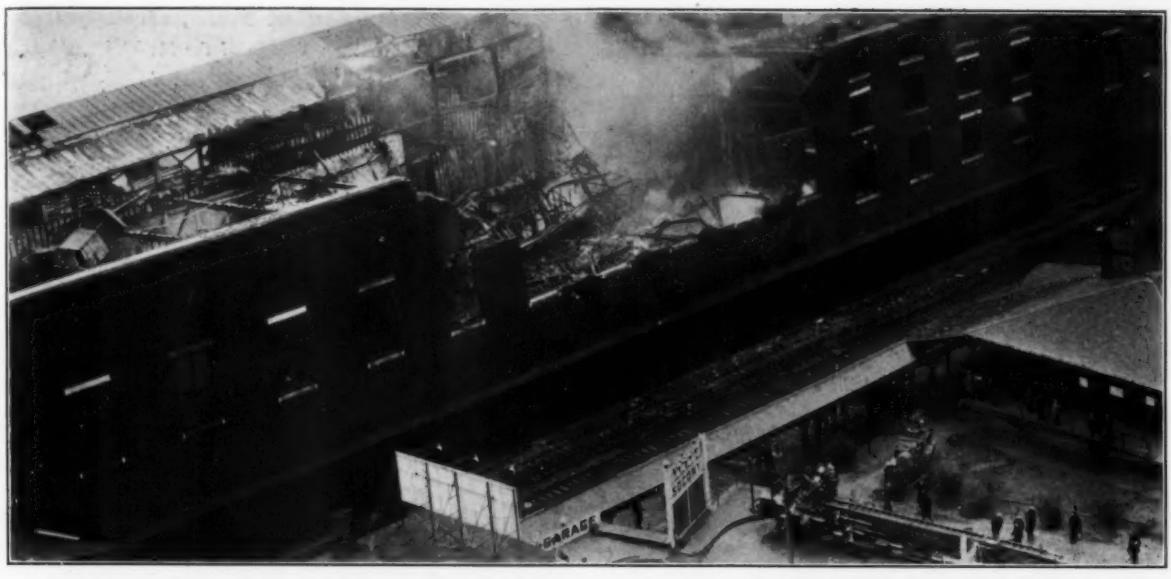
Discharge is secured by the usual formula,

Discharge = 30 x d x d x $\sqrt{}$ pressure.
= 30 x ⅝ x ⅝ x $\sqrt{}$ 86.
= 108.5 gallons per minute.

In the above formula "d" is the nozzle diameter in inches and "p" is the nozzle pressure in pounds per square inch.

Altadena, Cal., to Have New Station—A bungalow fire station constructed of hollow tile along the Spanish style architecture will be erected in Altadena, Cal. It is estimated that the station will cost $8,000.

Firemen to Hold Convention in Williamsport, Pa.—Plans are being made for the tenth annual convention of the Dauphin County Firemen's Association that will be held in Williamstown, Pa., on June 8-10.



General View of Damage Done at Back Bay Railroad Station Fire Showing the Caved-In Roof and Wall

FIVE ALARMS TURNED IN FOR BIG BOSTON DEPOT FIRE

Blaze in Ticket Booth Discovered After It Had Made Much Headway — Little Remained But Mass of Steel and Iron—Firemen Injured

By HARRY BELKNAP

THE Back Bay Railroad Station in Boston was destroyed on April 15 in a spectacular blaze for which five alarms were sounded. About twenty firemen were injured, several seriously, and there were many narrow escapes from death when the steel girders of the roof crashed in.

The three-story structure of brick and limestone with wood-sheathed interior was owned by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company and was first opened to traffic on September 10, 1899. It was 529 feet long, 178 feet wide, and 65 feet high. There was a frontage of 494 feet on Buckingham Street, 178 feet on Dartmouth Street, and 525 feet on the side facing the tracks of the Boston and Albany Railroad.

The waiting room was seventy-five by twenty feet. A roadway extended through the middle of the station between the waiting room and the inward and outward baggage rooms. An elevator and stairways led to the tracks which ran beneath the depot. There were offices and storerooms on the upper floors.

The fire apparently started in the ticket booths in the waiting room and had obtained great headway before it was discovered. A telephone alarm was received at 2:58 A. M. to which Engine Company 22, Ladder 13, and Acting District Chief William J. Shepard responded. An alarm was sounded from Box 1546 on Dartmouth Street, opposite Buckingham Street, at 3:00. This was followed by a second alarm at 3:01, third at 3:04, and fourth at 3:13. At 3:41 Chief Daniel F. Sennott ordered a fifth alarm sounded, to bring additional apparatus to the north side of the fire.

Flames were leaping across the central roadway from the waiting room when the first apparatus reached the scene and spread throughout the station with great rapidity due to the open spaces and air draughts. Hose lines were taken into the station and over ladders to the roof. Other lines were connected to wagon guns, towers, and deluge sets, and lines were taken to the roof of a garage at the foot of Trinity Place. Streams were directed on the fire from the roof of the Boston and Albany station at Trinity Place and two water towers played streams across these tracks. Within ten minutes from the time of the first alarm, the roof and wall of the waiting room had collapsed and the flames were leaping high in the air, fanned by a strong breeze from the west.

The following apparatus was at the fire: Engine Companies 22, 33, 35, 3, 10, 13, 15, 39, 23, 7, 6, 37, 14, 43, 8, 26, 24, 41, and 50; Ladder Companies 13, 15, 3, 12, 17, 5, and 18; Water Towers 2 and 1; Rescue Company No. 1, searchlight car, fuel supply wagons, and protective department autos.

Chief Daniel F. Sennott was in charge of operations. Other officers at the fire were Assistant Chief Henry A. Fox, Deputy Chief Thomas H. Downey, Deputy Chief Walter M. McLean, and four district chiefs. The department laid 21,900 feet of 2½ and 3-inch hose. Several lengths of hose and some ladders were lost when the roof fell in and one hose wagon was damaged. Streams from Morse wagon guns were used at the main entrance to the station on Dartmouth Street and Eastman deluge sets were in service on Buckingham Street.

During the progress of this fire three alarms were sounded for a threatening blaze in a 3-story frame building at the corner of Washington and Arnold Streets in the Roxbury district of the city. This fire was quickly brought under control by the "covering in" apparatus and by companies ordered to the scene by the fire alarm dispatchers.

Front View of the Station on Dartmouth Street

The fire in the railroad station burned until after daylight at which time little remained but a mass of twisted steel and iron. The brick walls were in a tottering condition and railroad trains on the New Haven road were diverted at Readville. Damage was estimated at between $800,000 and $1,000,000 by railway officials, but the fire department estimates were considerably lower. Nine firemen were sent to hospitals and many others were treated by ambulance doctors at the scene of the blaze.

Fire Commissioner Eugene C. Hultman was at the fire for several hours, remaining until long after the flames were brought under control. During the early stages of the fire water pressure appeared weak, but conditions improved later when pressure in the mains was increased. Mostly American-La France apparatus were in service.

A large crowd viewed the ruins on Sunday. The railroad company put gangs of men to work clearing away the wreckage and tearing down parts of the walls. Temporary wooden stairways were erected from the Dartmouth Street bridge to the train platforms and plans made for the resumption of service.

Firemen Fighting the Blaze in the Back Bay Station Owned by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad

Berry Has Large Fire Museum

Few know of the large museum of fire department relics that has been arranged on the top floor of a large warehouse in Roxbury, Mass., by George V. Berry, senior partner in the firm that owns the warehouse. It contains an extensive collection of pictures and relics relating to Boston fire-fighting.

Mr. Berry is an old time buff who began visiting fire stations when ten years old. He served in the department for ten years, and is a former president of the Box 52 Association.

He has photographs of Boston before the fire of 1872 and an airplane view of the burnt section of Salem, after the fire of June 25, 1924. He has a number of ancient leather fire buckets, a number of speaking trumpets used to shout orders to the men, and a number of plates from old horse-drawn engines.

Mr. Berry seems to know every piece of apparatus in Boston and every man in the department. He never misses a memorial day at the firemen's plot.

The fire department museum has already overflowed one room, and the collection is still growing.

Furniture House Damaged in New Orleans

Within fifteen minutes, fire had spread to three floors of a furniture house in New Orleans, La., and damaged nearby property. Total damage was estimated at $125,000. Police reserves from two precincts were necessary to hold back the large crowd attracted to the fire.

Upon the arrival of the first company, a general alarm was sent in. By this time the flames had eaten through the fourth floor. Another general alarm was sent in as the fire crept down the elevator shaft to the third floor and threatened a further advance. Chief John Evans was in charge.

The origin of the fire is doubtful. Contents of the three upper floors were damaged by fire and water, while stock on the lower floors suffered from the water dripping down.

Toledo, O., to Improve Department—The council of Toledo, Ohio, are planning improvements for the betterment of the department. This will include the construction of fire stations in Auburndale and the up-river districts costing $90,000 and the purchase of fire apparatus estimated at $71,000.

Jacksonville, Fla., Places New Station in Use—Jacksonville, Fla., has officially opened Station No. 11 to protect water front property. It will be in charge of Captain Peacock. A new 750-gallon pumper costing $12,500 will be placed in service. The city officials will be invited to a supper served by the men of the station, when they make an inspection of the new fire house.

Church Founded in 1834, Destroyed

The historic Metropolitan Temple of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Seventh avenue south of 14th street, New York City, was totally destroyed by a midnight fire in March. The congregation was established in 1834. President Grant once worshipped there and his pew was marked with a gold plaque. Services were held annually in his memory. The edifice was flanked on either side by a three story parish house and a rectory.

Fire started on the third floor of the parish house, evidently from an overheated hot air flue which passed through a hanging ceiling to the roof. From a point near this passage of the hot air pipe, was an open door to the balcony of the church.

The sexton who resided in the rectory on the other side of the church was away at the time. A policeman on patrol discovered the fire after it had control of the upper part of the three story parish house, and had gained headway to the rafters and the roof of the old church building.

The first chief officer to arrive snapped in a second alarm four minutes after the first alarm. Deputy Chief Helm sounded the third ten minutes later and the fourth alarm five minutes thereafter. Operations of the department were in charge of Chief Kenlon. Three wagon pipes and a water tower were used on the Seventh avenue front of the edifice.

Lines were stretched to the rear via adjoining houses. The swift progress of the flames held the firemen to the outside for nearly two hours. The building is in the high pressure district. The interior of the church was an inferno by the time the fourth alarm companies got their streams to work. Chief Kenlon cautioned all hands to keep clear. This caution was justified. Within an hour, half the rear wall of the church crumpled, and carried the roof with it. No person was injured.

On the front, the streams were able to do effective work through three large circular stained glass windows. These windows were dedicated to Presidents Lincoln, McKinley and Roosevelt. The front wall began to chip in places and its condition caused Chief Kenlon to order it shored up by the Department of Buildings. The pulpit of the church for several years was occupied by the Rev. S. Parkes Cadman, a noted cleric and philosopher who is frequently heard over the radio networks of the country.

The fire did slight damage to surrounding buildings. Water from hose streams flooded the Seventh avenue subway structure and necessitated the use of pumps to keep the line in operation. It is improbable that the church will be restored, since the property is very desirable for commercial or apartment house purposes and according to the Rev. Dr. Wallace MacMullen, the Rector, the congregation today comprises only 520 persons, many of whom no longer live in that vicinity.

WM. JEROME DALY.

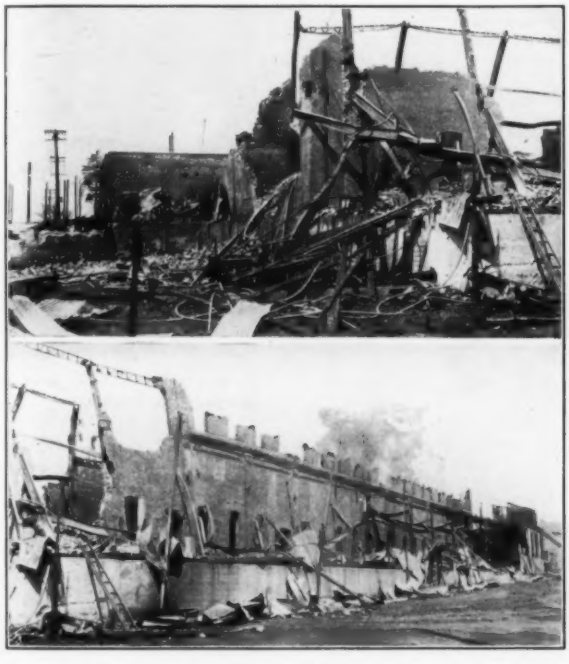
Fighting The Fire in The Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church

ALL APPARATUS CALLED OUT TO FIGHT BAYONNE, N. J., FIRE

Former Chief Alfred Davis Helps — Wind Carried Embers to Nearby Buildings—Flames Believed to Have Started from Bad Wires

FIRE, believed to have originated from defective wiring in the cellar where a large amount of oil was stored, destroyed the extensive plant of the Bayonne Bolt and Nut Corporation in Bayonne, N. J., not far from the Kill Von Kull.

The plant covered an entire block. A pier about five hundred feet long was used as a storehouse, and this was also destroyed.



Two Views of the Fire That Destroyed the Bayonne Bolt and Nut Company Factory

Embers from the fire were carried by a strong wind to the roofs of nearby buildings. They endangered an amusement park, popularly called "Little Coney Island."

The blaze was discovered by a foreman at 3:45 p. m., in the rear of a three-story building. The women employees in the plant were away from their benches at the time for the fifteen-minute recess period. The foreman yelled to the men and they unreeled hose attached to a standpipe. The flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to work without the aid of the fire department. The building was of steel construction with wooden frames and wooden floors.

When Chief William S. McLoughlin reached the factory, he immediately turned in a second alarm. This was followed by other alarms. Soon every available piece of apparatus was called out to assist in fighting the blaze.

Girls and older men became terror stricken. Luckily all escaped due to the large number of fire exits. The employees had just been paid and many who had placed the money received in their lockers, lost their week's wages.

Alfred Davis, former head of the department who had retired after twenty years' service, donned a rubber coat and helmet and assisted the department officers.

Deputy Chief William Garrity was assigned to watch the roofs to prevent additional fires. Small fires that started from burning brands landing on the wooden roofs caused almost as much excitement as the factory fire. All were extinguished before much damage was done.

Although officials of the plant stated that there was no explosive material in the plant, Chief McLoughlin said that several explosions had occurred while fighting the fire. A large supply of coal stored in a pocket on the grounds was also destroyed.

Gary, Ind., to Have New Fire Alarm—Plans are being drawn for a new fire alarm system for Gary, Ind.

WHAT'S BURNING

THE following list includes fires of $25,000 loss and over in the United States and Canada, for the periods designated in the headings. These figures, compiled from telegraphic reports, are based on estimates made at the time, and are subject to later investigation and consequent revision. Taken as a whole, however, they give an approximately correct view of the losses incurred. The figures represent loss in thousands.

Week Ending April 20

WEST PITTSTON, PA.—Plant of Exeter Paper Corp	80
THOMASVILLE, GA.—Whse. of Georgia Crate & Basket Co	80
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.—Red Cross bldg., Fulton & Hyde Sts	30
WINNIFIELD, LA.—Plant of American Creosote Co	180
WEST PLAINS, MO.—Three bldgs destroyed	80
PATERSON, N. J.—Katz bldg. 158 Market St	65
MONTREAL, QUE.—T. McAvity & Sons and adj. property	70
MONROE, N. Y.—Monroe High School destroyed	100
TULOT, ARK.—Planing Mill of C. A. James Lumber Co	25
BIGGS, CAL.—Seed mill owned by H. G. McClure	40
HORSE CAVE, KY.—Business bldgs. on public square	25
CALGARY, ALBERTA.—Elma Block, 8th Ave. E. destroyed	200
TROY, N. Y.—Herbert Bros. garage and adj. property	160
BOSTON, MASS.—Back Bay station, New Haven R. R.	400
NEWBURGH, N. Y.—Steamer of Keansburg Steamboat Co	100
TURTLEPOINT, PA.—Cheese plant of Dairymen's League	50
DAYTON, OHIO.—Bldgs. of Frabampton-Fenestra-Steel Sash Co.	150
POLLOCK, LA.—Masonic Hall and adj. property	45
GARFIELD, OHIO.—Salona Supply Co., adj. bldg.	40
PROVIDENCE, R. I.—R. I. Hotel, Baptist Church	250
RANGER, TEX.—Lone Star Gas Co., Prairie Pipe Line	25
INTERLAKEN, N. Y.—Goodman House and adj. property	40
OTTAWA, ONT.—Russell House badly damaged	50
MONMOUTH, ILL.—Fine Arts Theatre destroyed	25
NILES, OHIO.—Plant of Western Reserve Lumber Co	125
DENVILLE, N. J.—H. Fitcher residence, Rockaway River	25
FLINT, MICH.—Whse. occupied by State Trucking Co	150
BALTIMORE, MD.—Residence at 16 Mt. Vernon Place	50
TROY, N. Y.—Russell Sage Hall damaged	80
LYNNFIELD, MASS.—Storage bldgs. of E. E. Elder	65
MERWIN, SASK.—Grain elevator of Brooks Elevator Co	25
LONG BRANCH, N. J.—Bldg. 140 Broadway, J. Goldstein	40
MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.—St. Louis School gutted	25
PHOENIX, ARIZ.—Whse. occupied by Arizona Hdw. Co	25
GUELPH, ONT.—Castle Theatre and adj. property	100
DALLAS, TEX.—Whse. of J. L. Jones Furniture Co	80
WALDEN, N. Y.—Bldg. of Wallkill Pants Co. destroyed	75
RIVERHEAD, N. Y.—Ivans block damaged	40
ARCHBALD, PA.—Whipper Will Colliery destroyed	150

Week Ending April 27

MIDDLEBORO, MASS.—Factory of Alger Paper Box Co	125
LOUISBURG, N. C.—Riverside Warehouse and adj. property	40
RICHMOND, VA.—Business structures and residences	250
GREAT FALLS, MONT.—Junior High School bldg.	80
HARRISBURG, PA.—Bldg. owned by Keystone Printing Co	25

(*Continued on page 380*)

Riverhead, L. I., Fire Indicates Structural Weakness

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a block of stores in Riverhead, L. I., N. Y., with a resulting loss of $50,000. Fires of this type are not unusual in small cities and villages where it is common to have a row of stores built by one owner. The building is erected with a thin partition between the stores and with no fire stop in the cockloft. The result is that during a fire, while the firemen are working at one end of the block, the heat will travel unobtsructed through the cockloft and start fires all the way along to the other end of the block. Once in this stage, it is impossible to extinguish the blaze without a large water damage in all of the stores. In this fire, eight stores were destroyed.

INTERESTING CASES OF DAMAGE BY SPRINKLER SYSTEM LEAKS

Corroded or Ruptured Sprinkler Heads or Water Pipes Can Cause Untold Damage—Affects Manufacturing Processes and Output*

CONSTRUCTION work was in progress at a southern cotton mill. A sprinkler feed line had been lowered three inches. Hangings on the small lines branching from this feed line were not adjusted, and thus a heavy strain was placed on the elbows connecting the branch and feed lines. A small leak developed at one of the elbows. A piper placed a ladder against the feed line and was on his way up to repair the leak when the additional weight pulled the pipe out from the elbow. Water poured from the open 1½-inch fitting. Although the control valve was not shut promptly, enough water leaked through to damage eighteen cards on the floor below. A preliminary estimate of the loss was between $3,500 and $4,000.

Early one evening, a watchman in a Pittsburgh warehouse noticed water dripping down a dummy elevator. He went to the basement and closed gas, steam and water valves, but he did not close the proper sprinkler control valve. The water continued to run whereupon he called the fire department. They could not help. Not until the building superintendent arrived an hour and a half later was the water shut off. A ¼-inch spring pipe unsupported by a hanger had corroded and broken off at the tee. Fortunately the building was practically vacant, otherwise greater damage might have occurred. Elevator motors, a switchboard, and two generators were badly wet down.

One night an 8-inch low pressure steam main in a Pennsylvania carpet factory broke, probably as a result of water hammer. Escaping steam opened five sprinklers, which discharged water over rolls of carpet piled five high on end. The water also spread over the floor and wet the bottom tier of rolls, which were not skidded. The watchman discovered the break and shut off the water promptly, *but did not replace the sprinklers* and turn the water on again, as he should have done. In the morning, work was started at once in cleaning up and drying out the rolls of carpet, about two hundred and fifty of which were damaged. Protection was restored that morning, nearly five hours after the accident. The loss was $6800.

A sprinkler head opened from some unknown cause, probably a defective link, on the third floor of a reinforced concrete building used for manufacturing various forms of asbestos insulation. Water was promptly shut off, but enough leaked through the floors to damage finished air-cell asbestos pipe-covering stored in crates without skids, in the second story, and hair felt and asbestos cement and paper on the first floor. *Goods which were skidded did not suffer damage*, and the water did not reach the basement. The loss was $4000.

A watchman on an early evening round in the second floor of a Philadelphia tannery found water discharging from a 5/8-inch hole in a defective sprinkler riser. He called the head watchman and together they closed the valve. The water had been running about an hour and had wet down a dozen cases of leather in the second story and over sixty bales of dry goatskins on the first floor. In the morning, work was started cutting out the defective section of the riser, and by noon a new pipe had been put in place and the water again turned on. The riser had been in place many years; the hydrostatic tests made on new sprinkler equipments today disclose any weak sections of pipe or faulty installation. The loss was roughly estimated between $5000 and $8000.

A New England cotton mill was shut down for a two weeks' vacation period. During this time a leak developed in a corroded sprinkler pipe where it was threaded into a tee. The storehouse in which this occurred was not visited during the shut-down period. In this time a very small leak caused the wetting and mildewing of over eight hundred yards of cloth. A more serious leak might have caused extensive damage.

Sprinkler leakages—a term applied to any form of accidental leakage or discharge of water from sprinkler systems—have their lessons as well as do fires. The cases noted above, except the last, are the largest sprinkler leakage losses during the summer.

* From Factory Mutual Record.

Belmont and Bethesda Unite for Protection—Belmont and Bethesda, Pa., voted to unite for fire protection. The two towns are only one mile apart and joined by a good highway. Each has its own motorized fire apparatus. A system of alarms will be arranged that will sound simultaneously in each place.

Comr. Hedden to Tour Europe

Fire Commissioner George W. Hedden, and Mrs. Hedden of Buffalo, N. Y., will leave Montreal on July 13 on the "Duchess of Atholl," for a tour to Scotland, England, Holland and then to Paris. They will return on August 15.

The trip has been arranged by the Shriners, Ismailia Temple, Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Hedden expect to have a very enjoyable time while abroad.

In 1926 Commissioner Hedden took the trip to Havana from the convention of the I. A. F. C. held in New Orleans, and finding himself a good mariner, decided to take in the European tour.

Fire Commissioner George W. Hedden

Box 52 Association Inspects Plant

On April 18 the members of the Box 52 Association, Inc., of Boston, Mass., were guests of the Gamewell Company at the factory in Newton Upper Falls.

After a brief business session of the club at 30 Huntington Avenue the trip to Newton was made in automobiles. There was an inspection tour through the plant and to the fire alarm museum of the firm. Then refreshments were served.

President P. Hildreth Parker was in charge of arrangements for the association. The following members of the Gamewell Company acted as a reception committee and escorted their guests through the buildings: A. D. Wheeler, F. M. Tiffany, George C. Germond, and W. J. Carroll, sales engineers; W. E. Proctor, factory superintendent; F. P. Philbrick, chief electrician; Charles Moulton, head of the inspection division; F. N. Ritschel, and Gilbert Toone.

HARRY BELKNAP.

Historic Hotel Destroyed in Westerly

For the second time within a year, Westerly, R. I., suffered from a serious fire. Thjs time it destroyed the historic Rhode Island hotel and narrowly escaped razing the civic centre of the South County seat.

The hotel contained one hundred rooms. It was of joisted brick construction, four and one-half stories high, erected in 1867 at a cost of $300,000. It has been recently remodeled and stores erected on the ground floor.

The fire was discovered by a hotel guest at 1 a. m. Both he and the night clerk attempted to fight it with hand extinguishers. A call for help was not turned in immediately. When the first company arrived the flames had mushroomed in the attic and were breaking out on the roof. Chief George E. Eggers realizing the seriousness of the blaze, sent out a call for help to Pawcatuck, New London, Stonington, Mystic and Norwich, Conn., and Wakefield, Peacedale and Pleasant View, R. I.

Close by the hotel at either end and only separated from it by narrow streets were the First Baptist Church and the 5-story building of the Washington Trust Co. These buildings were well covered by the firemen and were only scorced. The fire was brought under control at 4 a. m., with damage estimated at $400,000. The merchants of the town are now demanding better fire protection.

JOHN S. COGGESHALL.

Framingham, Mass., May Have New Station—Framingham, Mass., is considering the erection of a new fire station and the purchase of a pumper and aerial ladder truck.

C. E. Comins Re-Elected Chief of Warren, Mass.—Charles E. Comins has been re-elected chief of Warren, Mass. He has been head of the department for sixteen years and a member of the board of engineers for twenty years.

CHICAGO FIRE ALARM REPORT BRINGS CRITICISM FROM NEW YORK

Investigating Committee From Chicago on Fire Alarm Systems Not Much Impressed With New York City Fire Alarm Signals

By WILLIAM JEROME DALY

IN an eight page letter to N. Banks Cregier, supervising engineer of Chicago, Ill., Val. Fendrich, chief of the fire alarm telegraph bureau of New York Fire Department, took issue with the report published on the findings of the committee. This group inspected the police and fire alarm systems of New York, Detroit, Boston, Quebec and Montreal. Mr. Fendrich stated:

"You can readily understand that I could not very well permit to go unanswered statements which could be construed as derogatory to our efforts in New York."

The report that the Cregier Committee to the Chicago city council has just been issued. It is intended to enlighten the city authorities on what should be done to modernize the police and fire alarm systems there. Several pages are devoted to New York's $12,000,000 fire alarm system. They thought well of the keyless door and stated that the locked fire alarm box is a municipal crime. It was not much impressed with New York's selective alarm system which the committee calls the "silent alarm" for the reason that it "runs into much undesirable complication of circuit arrangement and proves distressingly slow in getting the alarm on the way." The committee stated:

"The information gained in New York shows that with all the new equipment at headquarters, new boxes throughout the city, new cables, and so forth the Manhattan central office system unfortunately fails to show any particular gain in accurary or safety; nor has this plant gained anything in speed over its former old system, or over any of the other semi-automatic systems around the country as far as that is concerned. That a loss of time actually occurs is nearer the truth."

Of Boston's new $250,000 plant, the report states in part:

"In many cities fire alarm apparatus is required to operate according to the whims of city officials. If a push button is preferred rather than a pull the hook type as the Fire Commissioner suggested—manufacturers would no doubt gladly make this change. As to this being a progressive step is, of course, a matter of opinion—and as to just what advantage a push button would be was left as food for thought."

Detroit's fire alarm system was disposed of in the report in these few words:

"The fire alarm system is the usual semi-automatic type in operation and it is no faster than other cities similarly equipped."

Montreal was let down with this—"The fire alarm system is an old-time semi-automatic affair. Perhaps 'slow and sure' but surely slow."

Quebec was emphasized for its one-man fire alarm operator. Of this the report stated:

"One man to a watch is nothing short of a reckless gamble with the lives and property of that city."

Of Chicago, the report is quite full and mercilessly impartial. It contains many confessions of municipal neglect and retrogression. It states at the end of several paragraphs devoted to the question of automatic transmitters that "automatic transmitting takes minutes where manual transmitting takes seconds." As to the time factor, the report declares that "a fire department is no faster than its alarm system."

On the principle of the slogan "A Box a Block" which Chicago has adopted, the report states "Chicago, second among the great cities of this country, will be the first to take the initiative in placing a fire alarm box almost at the door of every home within its limits.

"Chicago, in its new installation of fire alarm" the document continues, "will retain its fame as having the fastest transmitting system in the world. Contemplated for the new system, it is planned to construct an improved alarm box receiving unit, instantaneous in operation—thus increasing the present speed to a new high."

The reason that the telephone furnishes eighty per cent of the initial calls for the fire department in Chicago, the councilmen disclose, is because "the fire alarm system of this great city has been allowed to dwindle in upkeep and extensions, until we now find ourselves almost wholly dependent upon it." Then pointing out that Chicago has 900,000 telephones and that there are only 2,687 fire alarm boxes covering 208 square miles for the protection of life and property, the report asks, "If it has paid the telephone company handsomely to install 900,000 instruments, might it not handsomely pay the City of Chicago to install 12,000 fire alarm instruments to protect life and property? As the case now stands, in a large area of the city, it is a case of using the public telephone or letting the house burn."

The report recites further that "the fire alarm system of Chicago is the same to-day as it was fifty years ago; never has been rebuilt and lacks coherence and standardization; much of the outside construction is over-head on pole lines; the circuits and central office equipment are over-loaded more than five times their normal capacity; only through the expertness of the fire alarm operators and the use of the public telephone exchanges has the fire department been able to function as well as it has.

"The city of Chicago is six thousand boxes short of the minimum required for proper protection under the rules of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. To end this menace, it is recommended that a box to a square block be installed uniformly throughout the city. There can scarcely be a reasonable doubt that the insurance interests would declare a blanket cut in rates in the event the city installs the 'Box a Block'—a plan contemplating the largest number of accessible alarm boxes per square mile in the world."

In the preface to the report which is addressed to Mayor Thompson, Fire Commissioner Goodrich, Police Commissioner Hughes and Mr. Kennedy, Gas and Electricity Commissioner, the Committee in emphasizing the necessity and urgency of a plan which looks ahead and builds for many years to come, says in part that Chicago "has never fallen short of a utility planned for its use; rather has it tremendously outstripped each and every improvement brought into existence for its progress. Its name has spread throughout the United States as the irresistible force among cities and the accomplishments of the past are already dwarfed by the onsweeping visions swiftly taking form for the close future; the old proverb—'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure' seems appropriate—unless we have forgotten the lesson of '71."

Chief Fendrich told Mr. Cregier that while he appreciates the complimentary references that have been made in the report to the work of modernizing New York City's fire alarm system, he is also mindful of the fact that in a trip of inspection of such short duration there is danger of getting false impressions and drawing erroneous conclusions from the vast amount of technical information hastily gathered.

"For this reason" Fendrich wrote, "I am inclined to believe that you have carried away some wrong ideas of what has been going on in New York with regard to the new fire alarm system and I am writing to call your attention to certain statements in your report which are not strictly in accordance with the conditions as they actually obtain."

Chief Fendrich thereupon elaborated on thirteen parts of the Cregier report with special reference to the New York fire alarm system.

John A. Crane Branch Manager for Eureka

Announcement has been made of the appointment of John A. Crane as manager of the Minneapolis office of the Eureka Fire Hose Manufacturing Co. Mr. Crane has been active in the fire hose business for many years and has spent most of his time in the territory where he is now located. His many friends will be pleased to learn of his new position.

John A. Crane

Each Institution Must Have Alarm Box

A law has just been passed in New York state that makes it compulsory for each hospital or orphanage having more than ten inmates, and every public, private or parochial school located where an electrically operated fire alarm system exists, to have a fire alarm box.

The expense of acquiring and installing the box shall be paid by the corporation owning or operating the school or institution, or by the city if it is a municipal building. The law becomes effective on July 1, 1928, and on Juy 1, 1928, the chief of the fire department shall direct any such schools or buildings in his district to install fire alarm boxes in acordance with the new law. Violation of this shall be classed as a misdemeanor.

The bill was sponsored by D. S. Mersereau, chairman of the law committee, Central New York Firemen's Association.

Portland, Me., May Erect Drill Tower—Portland, Me., is planning the erection of a drill tower estimated to cost $6,500.

OF INTEREST TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

PREPARE FOR USUAL SUMMER FIRE ASSOCIATION CONTESTS

Necessary to Plan Far Ahead for Prize Events—Judges Should Be Men Whose Word Will Not Be Questioned—Committees to be Appointed

WHEN Spring arrives, officials of the numerous firemen's associations all over the country commence to think of the annual tournament which is often held in conjunction with some firemanic convention. Often it is a distinct event.

Many factors determine whether a tournament is the success that it was hoped to be, or if it turns out to be a poorly managed affair with dissatisfaction among the participating companies. Each association hopes to have fire department contests that will draw a large crowd, and a large number of participating companies.

Such a gathering must be planned for months in advance. There are many little things that come up which must be disposed of in an efficient manner. Sufficient notice must be given to fire companies so that they will be able to practice and to arrange their teams.

Such a project is far from a one man job. The work is divided among a number of committees who must perform their tasks faithfully. It is only when the planning reverts back to a one man assignment, that the gatherings turn out to be a disappointment.

There must be a committee to have charge of the prizes and entrees. This is a big job. A canvas must be made among the townsfolk and other sources in order to accumulate a large number of prizes for the various events. This group can also handle the entries of the various member companies of the association. Whether an entry fee should be charged to the contesting companies is a matter that each association must decide for itself. If a number of prizes have to be purchased, or if the amount on hand is insufficient to meet tournament expenses, then it will be necessary to have some fee for those competing for the prizes.

Publicity Work Is Important

The advertising or publicity committee is a very important unit. The men on this committee must see that the various newspapers in the territory are supplied each week with some account of the plans being made for the coming gathering. There is always some new development that will make excellent copy for the papers. Publicity requires keeping the name and the date of the event before the public for many weeks in advance. In addition, circulars must be mailed to the fire companies, telling of the tournament, the various contests, the prizes, hotel accommodations and rates, entertainment features for the visitors, if any, plans for the parade, rules for the contests, names of the judges, and other data that would be of interest to those intending to compete. Posters should be placed in conspicuous places in order to attract a large crowd to the town to repay the merchants for the contributions they may have made.

Hotel accommodations must be given serious thought. In many towns, there are not enough rooms in the few hotels to care for the abnormal influx. In such cases, it is necessary to make a survey to determine the number of private homes that will take in visitors during the tournament. A few towns have erected tents and established somewhat of a tourist camp to care for the firemen. If the visitor has to worry where he will stay, he may be converted into a kicker instead of a booster.

This committee could also care for the refreshments that are generally furnished the firemen who participate in the parade. There should be plenty of assistants to avoid a delay at the refreshment tables.

Most every tournament has a parade preceding it. Such items as bands, badges, and line of march must be considered and planned for in advance. In order to encourage companies to parade with their own music, prizes are generally awarded to the largest band, and one to the best uniformed band. The more bands that come from out of town, the less expense there will be for the local committee. A parade always draws a large number of visitors. There are few indeed who do not experience some sort of thrill when watching a passing procession.

Judges are also important. They should be men of integrity and of good standing in their community. Preferably they should come from sections who do not have companies entered for the fire department contests so that there will not be a possible stigma of favoritism. They need not be men versed in fire department routine although a man acquainted with such evolutions will be a decided asset. The judges must be men whose decision will be respected. Often there is some kind of dispute board to hear complaints on the awards made by the judges.

All the points covered, may seem trivial by themselves but they are all factors that determine whether or not a fireman's tournament is the success that many believed it would be.

Garretsville, O., to Have New Pumper—Garrettsville, Ohio, will purchase a new combination pumper with chemical tanks.

Melrose, Mass., to Have New Station—A new fire station will be erected in Melrose Mass. The building will be of brick and limestone, one story and basement.

Combination Chemical and Hose Car Delivered to Farmingdale, L. I.

An International Harvester combination chemical and hose car has been delivered to Farmingdale, L. I., N. Y. It carries two 45-gallon chemical tanks, 250 feet of hose for the chemical tanks, hose reel, 2,000 feet of standard hose, search light, axes, hand extinguishers and sundry tools.

SPECIAL STATION DESIGN TAKES CARE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANY NEEDS

New Central Station Designed for Westerly, R. I.—Four Company Rooms Provided With Meeting Halls for Each Organization

By HARRY BELKNAP

PLANS for the new fire headquarters and central station of the Westerly, R. I., fire department call for a building of imposing appearance, with many unique features incorporated in the interior arrangement.

The design is the work of George Ernest Robinson, noted architect, of 80 Federal Street, Boston. In Westerly, the force is composed largely of volunteer companies with only a few permanent men. Many problems had to be solved because each company wanted to have its own meeting hall separate and distinct from the usual combination smoking and recreation room found in most fire stations. Provisions also had to be made for the fire alarm office, machine shop, and for means of drying hose.

All these features have been embodied in a most interesting way in the building planned by Mr. Robinson. Space has been provided on the main floor for two motor pumping engines, two hose wagons, hook and ladder truck, Foamite wagon, and chief's car.

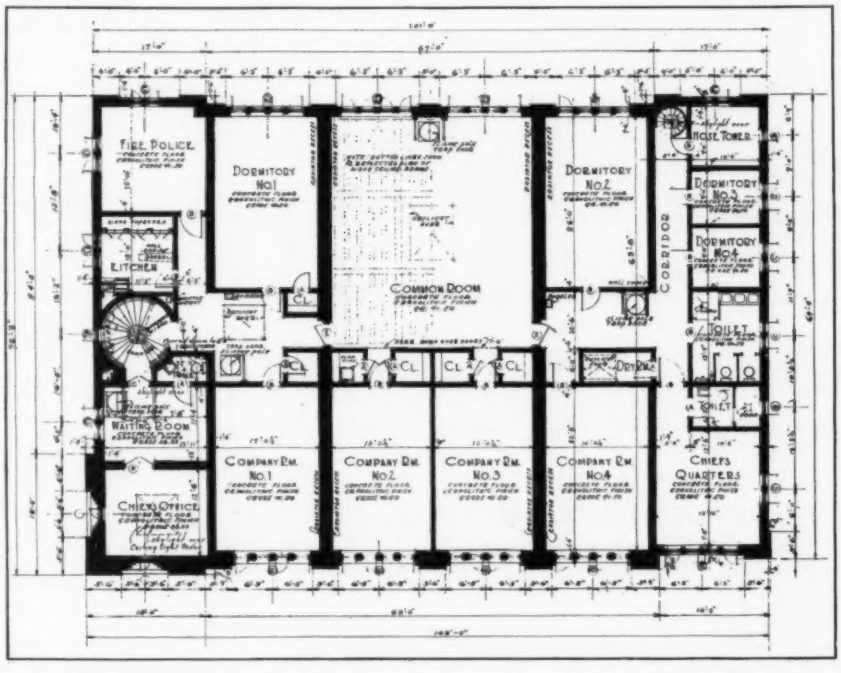
The new station will cost $111,000. It is to replace the old frame central firehouse which was destroyed, together with a new pumping engine, hose and other equipment in a fire that occurred last May and threatened to sweep the business section of the town.

The Westerly Fire Department under Chief Engineer George Egger is now operated on a semi-paid system with the expectation that eventually a permanent paid force will be established.

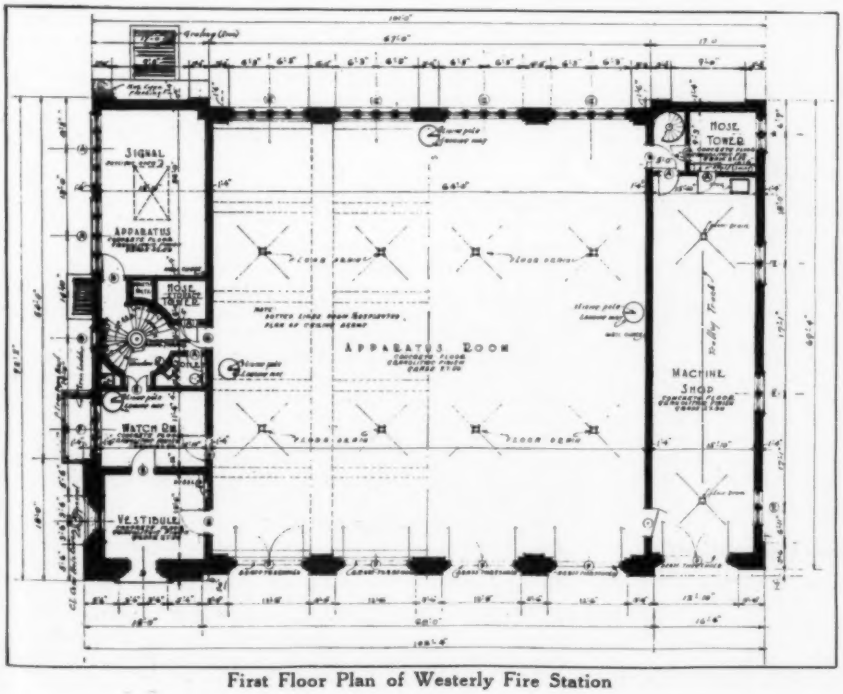
The new building will be 102 feet by 70 feet and the apparatus floor will be without posts or other obstruction. A portion of the basement will be excavated to furnish space for installation of heating equipment and whistle tanks.

Construction will be of modern fire resisting type with Westerly granite trim and Flemish Bond Gonic water struck brick exterior. The apparatus doors will be equipped with Clay hardware fastened to steel door frames. Interior doors are of the Batten type and the building will be well lighted with steel casement windows.

On the apparatus floor will be drains to carry off gasoline, oil or mud when the machines are washed. Public entrance will be through a vestibule with concrete floor, granolithic finish. In back of this is to be the watch room with desk and alarm board. Next comes a toilet, circular staircase, and hose storage tower. In the rear section on this side of the building is situated a room for the Gamewell fire alarm equipment and this is separated by fireproof walls from the apparatus floor. There is space below for storage batteries and a room for keeping soda and acid charges for chemical extinguishers.



Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan of Westerly Fire Station

On the opposite side of the building there is a machine shop which is separated from the main floor and extends to the rear where there is a hose tower. The apparatus floor has four double doors and there is a double door to the machine shop. There are three brass sliding poles.

The second floor arrangement is unusual and carefully thought out. There are four company rooms which provide meeting halls for the various volunteer companies. A large common room is to serve as smoking and recreation room and general meeting place for the firemen. Toilets, shower baths, locker rooms, and kitchen are provided. There are to be two large dormitories and two small dormitories. A special meeting room is laid out for use of the fire police.

Space is arranged for storage of salvage covers and there is a convenient drying room. At the head of the stairway is a

waiting room and toilet, from which a door leads into the office of the Chief Engineer. At the opposite corner of the building from the office is situated the chief's quarters consisting of large bedroom, toilet and shower bath.

Chestnut doors, moulded sheathing, radiators in recesses, and skylights as well as large windows for light and ventilation add to the comfort and attractiveness of the interior arrangements as shown by the detailed plans. Two bubbler drinking fountains are provided.

The roof is to be covered with two inch cork insulation, over which will be laid a tar and gravel roof.

The Westerly Board of Fire Engineers is composed of Chief Egger, George McKenzie, Robert Bonner, and Columbus Pasetti.

The plans as drawn by Mr. Robinson have been officially

As the Westerly Fire Station Will Appear When Completed

accepted by the town and contract for construction of the building awarded to Thomas H. Morrison, of Westerly. Building operations are now in progress.

The first apparatus to go in the new building will be a Seagrave motor pumper, Maxim hook and ladder truck, and a new Ahrens-Fox motor pumper.

New Electrical Field Secretary Appointed

Victor H. Tousley of Chicago has been appointed electrical field secretary of the National Fire Protection Association, succeeding in this capacity W. J. Canada who has held the position for several years past.

The appointment of an electrical field secretary several years ago was welcomed by all those who were interested in the history and development of the National Electrical Code. Experience has shown that the work of such an engineer was productive of very useful results in the direction of securing greater uniformity in the application of the Code and as a means of constant and intimate communication between electrical inspection departments, both of the underwriters and of municipalities throughout the country, with the Electrical Committee and its sub-committees.

Mr. Tousley assumed his new duties on May 1, 1928, and with temporary offices at Underwriters' Laboratories, 207 East Ohio Street, Chicago. He is widely known throughout the country in electrical circles. Mr. Tousley has been associated with the Department of Gas and Electricity of the City of Chicago for the past twenty-five years and for the past fifteen years has been Chief Electrical Inspector of that Department.

He was graduated from the American Institute of Technology, Chicago, as Electrical Engineer, is the author of a series of books on electrical construction, and has been a frequent contributor to technical magazines.

He has for many years been an active member of the Western Association of Electrical Inspectors of which organization he was president from 1910-1912. He has been a member of the Electrical Committee (National Electrical Code) of the National Fire Protection Association for the past fifteen years during which time he has served as a member or as chairman of many of the more important sub-committees. Mr. Tousley is a member and past president of the Electric Club of Chicago.

No Pay? Then No Fire Protection!

Even Ellenville, N. Y., up in the Catskill summer resort section, believes in the old saying that money makes the mare go. They have just revived an old village ordinance that suburban communities desiring fire protection from Ellenville must deposit $300 as a guarantee of pay for services.

This affects property owners in Greenfield, Briggs Street and Spring Glen. The matter was brought up when Chief C. G. A. Fisher refused to send aid to Briggs Street.

The three suburbs affected by the ordinance lie on higher ground than this village in the Delaware Valley. In the foothills of the Schawangunk Mountains operating expenses on fire departments are high, Chief Fisher pointed out. Greenfield, which has a population of about 300, lies four and a half miles from there and during the past year and a half has had five fires, to which the local department has responded. Briggs Street is three miles away, with a population of 200, and has had fewer fires. Spring Glen is about the same distance away, and has about the same population.

It costs money to run fire departments to fires in non-paying suburbs, he has discovered, and neither he nor the village officials feel that Ellenville should bear the burden, even if such costs are incurred protecting property. Hence the enforcement of the ordinance.

As yet no property owners in any of the three suburbs have posted their forfeits, but as they realize the importance of protection Chief Fisher believes they will present their guarantees. Then as soon as a fire is reported the chief will check through his list of protected property owners and if the fire is at the home of one of them he says he will order out all five pieces of equipment. Otherwise, he says, "I'll just go back to sleep."

"Very few property owners are willing to pay the fire department after a fire," he continued, "but this ruling will put an end to that. Of course we will continue to exchange services with Napanoch and Kerhonksen, for they, too, have volunteer departments and can help us in case we need assistance."

Fire Chiefs' Club Meets in Boston

The April meeting of the Fire Chiefs' Club of Massachusetts was held at the Parker House, Boston, following a luncheon on April 18. Chief Patrick J. Hurley, of Holyoke, presided.

An interesting paper by Walter L. Wedger, former Massachusetts State Chemist, on "Fires in Electrical Sub-Stations" was read by Chief William H. Hill, of Belmont, secretary of the club, in the absence of Mr. Wedger who was unable to be present.

Chief Daniel F. Sennott, of Boston, told some details of the recent fire in the Back Bay railroad station and there was a discussion of the rights of municipal fire departments on railroad and government property.

The following committee was appointed to confer with State Commissioner of Insurance Monks in regard to over insurance and to reported instances of large payments made in cases where the actual damage from fire was small: Chief Daniel Tierney, of Arlington; Chief Frank C. Newman, of Melrose; Chief Charles L. McCarthy, of Worcester; Chief Daniel F. Sennott, of Boston; Chief George L. Johnson, of Waltham; Chief William H. Hawkins, of Haverhill; Chief Thomas Qualey, of Medford; and Ex-Chief Francis J. Morris, of Lawrence.

Fire Commissioner C. C. Roundsville, of Fall River, was elected to membership in the club. The next meeting will be held on May 19 in Pittsfield.

HARRY BELKNAP.

Conroe, Tex., Has New Apparatus—Conroe, Tex., has recently bought new fire apparatus for $6,700.

Cuthbert, Ga., to Buy New Apparatus—Cuthbert, Ga., will buy new fire apparatus costing $12,000.

Elwood, Ind., to Have Fire Alarm—Elwood, Ind., has awarded a contract to the Harrington-Seaberg Company for a fire alarm system to cost nearly $10,000.

Manchester N. H., Will Not Get Pumper—The aldermen of Manchester, N. H., have voted against the plan to buy a 1,000-gallon pumper for $12,000. The request for more apparatus was made last fall.

Paducah, Tex., Buys Pumper—Paducah, Tex., has ordered a new pumper for $7,250. The state convention will be held in Denton some time in June, and the new apparatus will be on display there.

Two Shifts Planned for Baltimore Officers—The benefits of two platoon system will be extended to the officers of Baltimore, Md., probably early in May. This plan will provide for the appointment of two new deputy chiefs, thirteen battalion commanders, thirteen captains and five lieutenants. All of these will be appointed from the promotion list of eligibles. About $10,700 will be required to care for this change. Under the new plan, Chief August Emrich, head of the department, will be the only officer serving on a double duty basis.

Announcing
A Municipal Sales Department

TO assist fire, police and similar municipal organizations in the economical and efficient solution of apparatus door equipment problems, The Automatic Door & Equipment Company, Incorporated, has created a Municipal Sales Department.

This Department, under the supervision of Mr. M. E. Krause, who for many years has been actively identified with the Fire Department field, will be characterized by the same spirit of cooperation that has created such gratifying good will in the past for this organization.

Problems of door installation, alteration or operation will be intelligently discussed with municipal department officials without the slightest obligation on their part.

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All Space Sold for N. E. Convention

All available exhibit space has been sold for the convention of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs to be held in Burlington, Vt., June 26-29. The display will be arranged in the new Memorial Auditorium. Those who have contracted for space are as follows:

Holtzer Cabot Electric Co., American Fire Appliance Co., The Seagrave Corporation, Mine Safety Appliance Co., Fabric Fire Hose Co., Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Co., Mack Engine and Truck Co., American-LaFrance and Foamite Corporation, Pyrene Manufacturing Co., Samuel Eastman, Maxim Motor Co., Kilsoot Co., H. B. Smith Co., Republic Hose Co., Eureka Fire Hose Manufacturing Co., The Gamewell Co., American Fomon Corporation and W. S. Nott and Co.

A letter has been sent out to the members by the Convention Bureau of Burlington, Vt., describing the facilities available in that city for a pleasant convention.

HARRY BELKNAP

New York City Stages a Clean-Up

The New York Board of Fire Underwriters have staged a little party in New York City, all by themselves. It is the eighth annual clean-up campaign of the board, and one hundred inspectors were sent out to clean up the section between Canal and Thirty-Fourth streets and the East and North rivers.

The district under inspection contains a large number of manufacturing plants and lofts, and has been described by fire officials as the worst in the city from a standpoint of fire hazards. The inspectors will visit factories and observe where rubbish is allowed to accumulate, where employes are allowed to smoke while at work and where the exits are not in proper condition. Another meeting will be held to hear the results of the campaign.

Charles R. Pitcher, Chairman of the Committee on Surveys of the Board, explained the purposes of the campaign. Peter C. Spence, Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention of the Fire Department, in commenting on a decrease in fire losses in the city last year, said that fatalities were below 100 for the first time in many years. In 24,341 fires in the city last year, he said, ninety-six lives were sacrificed and $20,000,000 lost in property.

"We know it is impossible to prevent fire," Chief Spence said, "and so the great work of fire prevention is to confine its area. Some of our great problems are automobiles and filling stations, gasoline supply tanks and oil stations, which altogether give us a daily total in the city of 120,000,000 gallons of gasoline.

"The public has little knowledge of it, but we have now a very big program of subway construction and in this work there are in the city 302 storage magazines for dynamite. These magazines contain an average daily supply of from three to three and one-half tons. Considering this amount of explosives, we have had very few accidents. This is due to the close scrutiny we keep over it.

"Our greatest goal is to reduce the number of lives lost."

Firemen Stage Last Fight in Boxing Stadium

There will be no more boxing exhibitions — at least for the present — in the boxing stadium of Little Coney Island in Bayonne, N. J. Fire of undetermined origin wiped out the wooden structure on March 26. Such structures are rather crude and the value is not very great. But the loss in this fire was estimated at $50,000.

Many Speedboats Destroyed in Long Island Boat Yard Fire

Acres of refuse, twisted steel and debris are all that is left to indicate where once was a flourishing ship yard at Port Washington, L. I. Yachts, speedboats and other marine craft were destroyed in the Purdy Boat Yard fire, with an estimated loss of $425,000. Aid from other communities was secured in fighting the blaze.

What's Burning

(*Continued from page 373*)

LINCOLN, NEBR.—City Auditorium destroyed..... 30
JERSEY CITY, N. J.—Factory of Hillier & Sons Drug Co..... 80
FRANKFORT, KY.—Southern Presbyterian Church..... 25
BUTLER, PA.—Cattle and creamery bldg. J. S. Campbell..... 125
WILKES-BARRE, PA.—Strand Theatre and adj. property.... 25
STANTON, DEL.—Barn on W. T. Boyce farm near here..... 25
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Johnson-Winsatt Lumber Yard——— 400
RICHWOOD, W. VA.—Business property and residences..... 325
NORFOLK, CONN.—Residence of Mrs. Mulhall, of New York... 25
MONROE, MICH.—Plant of Barrett Products Co..... 25
OLIVE BRANCH, MISS.—Dwelling of T. H. Norvell destroyed. 25
SWAN LAKE, MISS.—The James and Gary residences..... 25
LANCASTER, PA.—Evans Electric shop and adj. stores..... 25
SCRANTON, PA.—Factory of Brown Products Corp..... 165
WINDSOR, CONN.—Whse. of P. Lorillard Co. destroyed..... 100
CHICAGO, ILL.—Property of Burkhartsmeier Cooperage Co... 40
ANN ARBOR, MICH.—Arcade cafeteria damaged..... 25
N. WESTCHESTER, CONN.—C. H. Norton Paper Mill destroyed 40
NEW HAVEN, KY.—St. Catherine Catholic Church..... 60
STEUBENVILLE, OHIO.—Plant of American Vitrified Products Co 150
PATCHOGUE, L. I., N. Y.—Central Hotel and adj. property... 50
MEDFORD, MASS.—Stock of W. H. Champlin Box Co. damaged. 80
WALLACEBURG, ONT.—Crammer Feed Barn, adj. bldgs..... 125
NEW ORLEANS, LA.—Bldg. of Louis Mondshine Furniture Co. 125
NEWARK, N. J.—Plant of Nonpareil Toy & Novelty Co..... 25
ALPHA, N. J.—Property owned by Chas. Chierrelli..... 25
ANDERSON, S. C.—Business property owned by B. O. Evans.. 25
EASTPORT, ME.—Factory of Blanchard Mfg. & Canning Co... 150
BRYANT'S POND, ME.—Dudley Opera House block destroyed.. 25
LEBANON, IND.—Farmers State Bank bldg. destroyed..... 60
CAREY, OHIO.—Plant of Carey Porcelain Co..... 65
WATERLOO, IOWA.—Hawkeye Hotel and adj. property..... 35
PAOLA, KAN.—Business Property destroyed..... 100
VERDIGRE, NEB.—Verdigre Roller Mills destroyed..... 40
CLIFTON, N. J.—Lumber yards of D. G Warsham destroyed.. 60
PLUCKEMIN, N. J.—Kenilworth Inn destroyed..... 40
READING, PA.—Warehouse of H. C. Shaaber..... 25
PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Plant of American Button Mfg. Co.... 40
MONTICELLO, N. Y.—Bldg. of Synfleur Scientific Lab..... 75

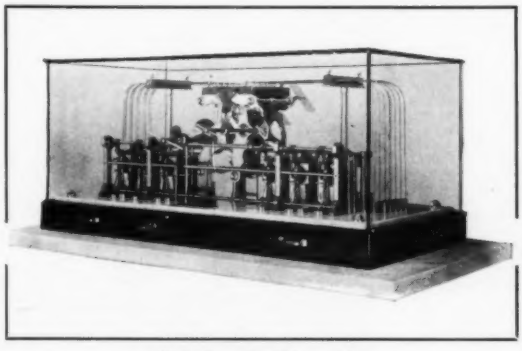
Correction

In the April 18 issue of FIRE ENGINEERING there appeared an article on "Getting a Line to the Thirtieth Floor," by William Jerome Daly. The sixth paragraph in the second column on page 320 should read "five lengths of 2½-inch hose" and not 3½-inch hose as reported. The New York Fire Department only carries 3½-inch hose aboard fire boats, but it does not use it ashore.

Stopping Evaporation and Fire

Those interested in industrial and fire protection in the oil field may be interested in a new booklet issued by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works on "Stopping Evaporation and Fire." It has twenty-four pages and is amply illustrated. The booklet describes the Wiggins floating roof for tanks, a companion roof to the Wiggins breather roof for standing storage.

Washington, D. C., May Have New Fire House—Washington, D. C., proposes to erect a new fire station at Sixteenth Street and Colorado avenue. The project awaits congressional sanction.



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The H-S Automatic Non-Interfering Repeater is insulated throughout with bakelite and mica; electrical contacts are made of silver and carried by nickel silver springs. The other working parts are made from instrument bronze highly lacquered, and high-grade steel.

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The H-H Inhalator is a Resuscitation Device for administering Carbogen (95% of Oxygen and 5% of Carbon Dioxide) to persons overcome by Smoke, Ammonia Fumes, Gas and Carbon Monoxide, the most treacherous gas encountered in Fire Fighting today. Especially Valuable in Treating Firemen suffering from Smoke Nausea.

The H-H Inhalator is used in conjunction with Artificial Respiration and is officially approved by the Association of Police and Fire Surgeons and the American Gas Association. Remarkable results are being obtained by firemen the world over.

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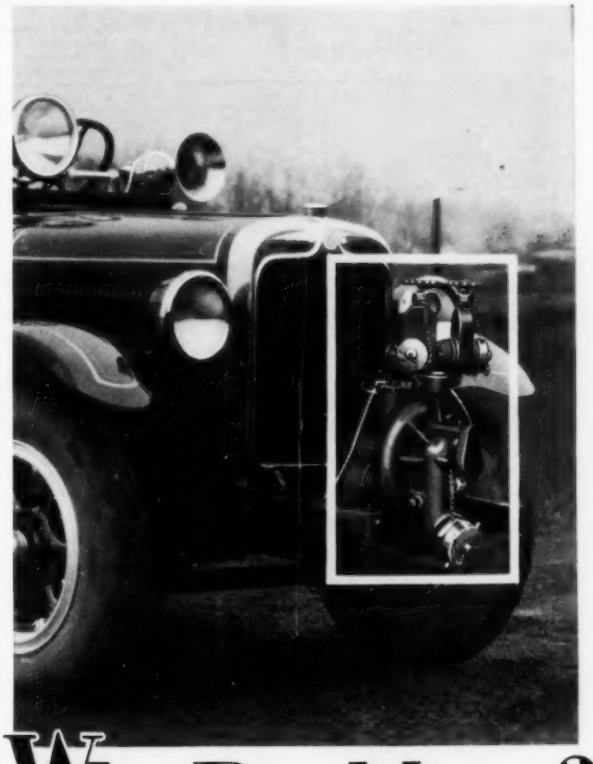

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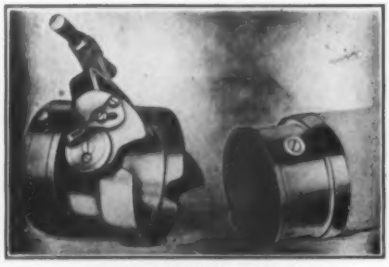

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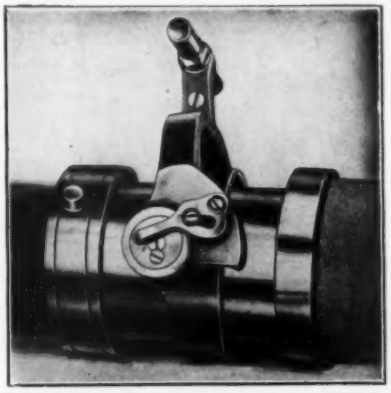

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INSURANCE AND FIRE PROTECTION SHOULD WORK FOR COMMON GOAL

Public Should Be Penalized Instead of Indemnified for Each Fire That Occurred—Fire Apparatus Industry Should Confer With Others*

By CHARLES H. MEIGS
Commissioner, Fire Equipment Institute, New York, N. Y.

FIRE Insurance, however much a commercial necessity and worth while, should never be considered as being in any degree a proper substitute for the genuine fire protection afforded by fire department and first-aid apparatus. Our real trouble is that we have not been buying fire protection at all, which fact largely explains our enormous fire losses. We have been buying only fire insurance, which, at the best, can only partially reimburse the individual; while nobody, nothing, can recompense the community, the state, the nation, the world, for the $500,000,000 worth of tangible values actually burned up and annihilated in our blessed, careless country every year!

Charles H. Meigs

It may be heresy to say so, and perhaps I am not wholly in earnest, but at times I have the feeling that people really would be very much more careful to prevent fires if they were penalized instead of being indemnified for every fire they had; that there would be far better and much more real fire protection — and consequently fewer fires and less fire waste—if there were no fire insurance, or, at least, if fire insurance were not substituted for the genuine fire protection afforded by adequate, efficient fire-extinguishing apparatus. Seriously, fire insurance is, of course, a fundamental financial and business necessity, as we all know.

The gravest point of all, which I only mention in order that the facts may be fully appreciated, is the feeling in the minds of the fire equipment industry, rightfully or wrongfully, that the distribution and installation of efficient fire-extinguishing equipment are too much hedged around, bound down, and more or less limited and controlled by self-promulgated edicts and other seeming interferences on the part of the fire insurance interests.

Because of this feeling, I am constantly urging and hoping for a closer alliance and a better understanding between the fire insurance and the fire equipment interests; so that they may work in harmony in the greater development of both fire extinguishing and fire preventing, believing in the heart of me that in no other way will we attain a sure, a quick reduction in our national fire waste!

I urge the fire insurance interests to open their doors, their minds, and even their hearts to the fire apparatus industry, and to invite it to a conference on this great subject of reducing our national fire losses. And let such a meeting be as between peers, each acknowledging the other's sincerity of purpose, and recognizing that both may have helpful ideas to contribute, and surely that it is no longer a subject to be passed upon by the fire insurance interests alone. It seems impossible for any intelligent man to ignore any longer the plain fact that, while we have not done and cannot do too much in the way of fire prevention, surely we have done far too little in the way of fire extinguishing, and that the short cut to decreased fire losses is through increased fire extinguishing!

All these things have failed us. They have availed us nothing so far as reducing our national fire-waste to a point that can be looked upon without alarm and horror. Until last year, in spite of everything, our fire-waste has constantly increased. The figures for this year thus far indicate the same condition.

The plain truth is that we cannot entirely prevent fires. Then, why not try to put them out when they do occur? That is all I have ventured to suggest, and we must not reject it, and surely not resent it, if it seems only a simple answer to a very profound problem.

*Abstract of paper presented at National Fire Waste Council, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, D. C.

To Learn Why Water Starts Farm Fires

Water, usually a first aid in fighting fire, may on occasion help to kindle fire. During the recent floods in Vermont, farmers appealed to the State College of Agriculture for advice on how to prevent fires arising from spontaneous ignition—more commonly called "spontaneous combustion"—of hay stored in barns and wet down by flood waters. One dairy barn was destroyed by fire so caused. Other farmers found it necessary to stand guard with more water in case the hay in their barns heated to the kindling point, and some removed the hay from the barns to give it a chance to dry out.

These experiences represent a specialized phase of a larger problem now under investigation by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and workers from other bureaus in the United States Department of Agriculture. A more general phase is the spontaneous ignition of stored products, include dairy feeds, molasses feeds, oil cakes, sugar cane bagasse, and other agricultural products as well as hay. The general problem is the chemical action or bacterial action that results in the destruction, deterioration, or discoloration of stored products, the damages from which may be severe even though it does not cause spontaneous ignition.

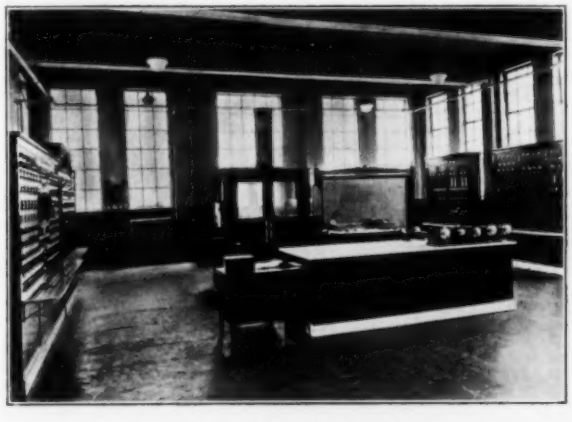
It is estimated that the fire damage known to result from spontaneous ignition amounts to $8,000,000 annually. This is fifth in importance in the list of known causes of fire. Unfortunately approximately 40 per cent of farm fires are listed as of unknown origin, and students of the question believe that, if the facts were clear, "spontaneous combustion" would be proved responsible for a considerable percentage of these fires.

Chemists of the Department of Agriculture, with the assistance of bacteriologists, and engineers will try to determine the conditions of moisture, pressure, air supply, and other factors in the process which may raise the temperature of stored products to the ignition point. They hope to work out methods of curing hay and other feeds, or storing them, and of building safe storage facilities which will enable farmers to prevent such fires and the resultant dangers to life and to property.

New Asst. Chief for Amsterdam, N. Y.—James J. Stewart, a member of the department for twenty-five years has been named assistant chief of the fire department in Amsterdam, N. Y. He succeeds the late Matthew J. Comiskey.

Ashland, O., to Entertain Convention—The fifty-sixth annual convention of the Northwestern Ohio Volunteer Firemen's Association will be held in Ashland, Ohio, some time in June. This will be the third time that the convention will have been held in Ashland.

New York City Firemen Get Rest—Even a busy metropolis such as New York City may have its off moments. From Sunday, April 22 at midnight until 10 a. m. of the following day, a period of ten hours, only two alarms came in. This was considered remarkable since many homes had kitchen and furnace fires.



New Fire Alarm Office in Memphis, Tenn.

Memphis, Tenn., is served by a modern fire alarm headquarters equipped with Gamewell apparatus. This consists of a one 12-circuit box line relay board, one 4-circuit primary alarm board, one 4-circuit secondary alarm board, one 24-circuit protector board, one 100-circuit Cook terminal, one recording set, one operator's pedestal with the necessary equipment and 620 cells of F. I. P. battery.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

London, Madison Co., Ohio—Committee appointed by Mayor Leroy Cornwell to confer with township trustees on purchase of fire apparatus for rural use. J. W. Byers, Fire Chief.

Bluffton, Allen Co., Ohio—Bonds to the amount of $6,000 are to be issued next month by City Council for purchase of a piece of fire apparatus.

Lima, Allen Co., Ohio—Fire Chief John Mack recommended the purchase of a new aerial ladder truck immediately. Other equipment needed includes two pumpers and additional fire hose, according to reports. I. C. Browers, City Manager.

Bradgate, Humboldt Co., Iowa—Fire department contemplating purchase of chemical fire truck for rural use.

East Riverton, Burlington Co., N. J.—East Riverton Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 was organized here with Robert H. Washington as chief.

Tacoma, Pierce Co., Wash.—H. D. Dyment, Commr. of Public Safety, making preliminary plans for construction of three new fire stations and of a fire boat. C. L. Thompson, Supt. Fire & Police Alarm systems, making plans for new fire alarm system to be built.

Mt. Prospect, Cook Co., Ill.—Fire department raising funds for the purchase of a new pumper. T. Meyer, Chief.

Chicago, Ill.—Fire Commissioner Albert W. Goodrich requested City Council finance committee to appropriate money for purchase of 12 ambulances for the fire department at $6,000 each.

Enid, Garfield Co., Okla.—Special election is to be held May 19 to vote on a $479,561 bond issue, part of which is to be used for two fire stations and equipment. A. A. Stull, Mayor.

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One Mack Model AC 500-gallon combination pumping engine and hose car, in excellent condition. The reason for wanting to dispose of this machine is because we have purchased a 1,000-gallon Mack. Apply:

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Long Island, N. Y.

5-2-16

CONVENTION DATES

May 7-10—NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (International). 32nd Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, N. J. Secretary, Franklin H. Wentworth, 40 Central Street, Boston, Mass.

May 9—SULLIVAN COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, South Fallsburg, N. Y. Secretary, Adolph Doeinck, Liberty, N. Y.

May 10-11—ARIZONA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 5th Annual Convention, Bisbee, Ariz. Secretary, Chief W. J. Nemeck, Douglas, Ariz.

May 18-19—FOUR-COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention and Parade, Allentown, Pa. Secretary, P. J. McNally, Catasaqua, Pa.

May 30-31—SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 23rd Annual Convention, Rock Hill, S. C. President, Chief Louis Behrens, Charleston, S. C.; Secretary, R. S. Hood, Sumter, S. C.

May 31—NEW JERSEY STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION. Next meeting, Irvington, N. J. Secretary, William Exall, Chamber of Commerce Building, Newark, N. J.

June—NORTHWESTERN OHIO VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 56th Annual Convention, Ashland, Ohio.

June 5-7—KENTUCKY STATE FIRE CHIEFS' AND FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 10th Annual Convention, Middlesboro, Ky. Secretary, Captain S. G. Render, Fire Department Instructor, 303 Speed Building, Louisville, Ky.

June 5-7—NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 22nd Annual Convention, Troy, N. Y. (meeting in conjunction with Mayors' Conference). Secretary, Chief John H. Golden, Cohoes, N. Y.

June 5-7—OHIO FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION. 11th Annual Convention., Marion, Ohio. Secretary, Chief Philip J. Harty, Fire Department, Youngstown, Ohio, Sheet and Tube Company.

June 8-9—DELAWARE COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 22nd Annual Convention and Parade, Chester, Pa. Recording Secretary, Timothy McCary, Chester, Pa.

June 8-10—DAUPHIN COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 10th Annual Convention, Williamstown, Pa.

June 16—LEBANON COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Palmyra, Pa. Secretary, William I. Kutz, Box 233, Myerstown, Pa.

June 19-21—HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 39th Annual Convention, Kingston, N. Y. Secretary, Chief Chris W. Noll, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Fire Department.

June 19-22—ANNUAL SHORT COURSE OF FIRE PREVENTION, CONTROL AND EXTINGUISHMENT. 4th Course, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Ill. Secretary, Ill. Firemen's Association, Asst. Chief Roy W. Alsip, Champaign, Ill.

June 20—NASSAU COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Tournament, Port Washington, N. Y.

June 20-22—WISCONSIN STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 41st Annual Convention and Tournament, Kiel, Wis. Secretary, E. Philip Mueller, Jefferson, Wis.

June 20-23—PROVINCIAL FEDERATION OF ONTARIO FIRE FIGHTERS. Annual Convention, King Edward Hotel, Toronto, Ont., Can. Secretary-Treasurer, David H. Lamb, 132 Bellevue Avenue (2) Toronto.

June 25—NORTHWEST FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Semi-Annual Convention. Centerton, Ark. Secretary-Treasurer, F. M. Brock, Bentonville, Ark.

June 25-28—OKLAHOMA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 34th Annual Convention and State Firemen's Training School, Blackwell, Okla. Secretary, Charles Slemp, 820 East 19th St., Oklahoma City.

June 26-29—NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 6th Annual Convention, Burlington, Vt. Secretary-Treasurer, Chief John W. O'Hearn, Watertown, Mass. Chairman, Exhibit Committee, Frank M. Tiffany, Gamewell Company, 1022 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston.

June 28-30—ALLEGHANY COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Tarentum, Pa.

July 3—MAPLE VALLEY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Tournament, Battle Creek, Ia.

July 4-6—DOMINION ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 20th Annual Convention, Kingston, Ont. Secretary, Chief James Armstrong, Kingston.

July 5-7—SOUTHEASTERN FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Atlanta, Ga. Secretary, Chief H. E. Whitener, Hickory, N. C.

July 10-12—MICHIGAN STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 54th Annual Convention, Port Huron, Mich. Secretary, H. L. Williams, Ludington, Mich.

July 11—DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 8th Annual Convention, Hall of Carlisle Fire Company, Milford, Del. Secretary, Sam H. Carson, Dover, Del.

July 17-19—INDIANA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. IND. FIRE CHIEFS' ASSO. and NO. IND. INDUST. & VOL. FIREMEN'S ASSO. Annual Conventions, Terre Haute, Ind. Secretary Ind. F. Asso., Frank H. Miller, Fire Headquarters, Terre Haute.

July 18-21—SOMERSET COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Boswell, Pa. Secretary, J. R. Shanks, Rockwood, Pa.

July 27-28—NEW MEXICO STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Socorro, N. M. Secretary, Theodore A. Rosenwald, East Las Vegas, N. M.

August—UTAH STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 21st Annual Convention, Bingham Canyon, Utah. (Date to be set at April meeting.) Secretary, Harris E. Anderson, Fire Headquarters, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Aug. 1-2—CENTRAL DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Annual Convention, Clearfield, Pa. Secretary, John E. Johnson, DuBois, Pa.

Aug. 14-16—WISCONSIN PAID FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 21st Annual Convention, Racine, Wis. Secretary, Hugh Corcoran, Superior, Wis.

Aug. 22-24—VIRGINIA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 42nd Annual Convention, Ocean View, Va. Secretary, Chief J. B. Gordon, Newport News, Va.

Aug. 29-31—CALIFORNIA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 6th Annual Convention. Redding, Cal. Secretary-Treasurer, H. E. Strasser, 1171 Tenth Street, San Diego, Cal.

Sept. 11-13—ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 41st Annual Convention, LaSalle, Ill. Secretary, Roy W. Alsip, Asst. Chief, Fire Department, Champaign, Ill.

Sept. 18-19—IOWA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 51st Annual Convention, Independence, Ia. Secretary, E. E. Parsons, Marion, Ia.

Oct. 1-5—PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. 49th Annual Convention, Uniontown, Pa. Secretary, Charles F. Clark, 411 Bellevue Avenue, Wayne, Pa.

Oct. 1-6—PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 35th Annual Convention and School of Instruction for Firemen, Sacramento, Cal. Secretary, State Fire Marshal Jay C. Stevens, Merchants' Exchange, Bldg., San Francisco, Cal.

Oct. 9-10—MISSOURI VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. Annual Convention (tentative date). Secretary, Chief Ray Tiller, Waterloo, Ia.

Oct. 9-11—RAILWAY FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION. Annual meeting, place to be selected later by Executive Committee. Secretary-Treasurer, R. R. Hackett, Baltimore & Ohio R. R., Baltimore, Md.

Oct. 11-12—GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. Annual Convention (tentative date). Secretary, Chief Frank C. McAuliffe, Chief of Patrols, 100 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill.

Oct. 15-17—EASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (Eastern Division, I. A. F. C.). First Annual Convention, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. (Just preceding I. A. F. C. Convention.) Secretary, Chief J. H. Golden, Cohoes, N. Y.

Oct. 17-20—INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS. 55th Annual Convention, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. Exhibits at Second Regiment Armory. Secretary, Chief James J. Mulcahey, Yonkers, N. Y.; Executive Secretary, Jay W. Stevens, Merchants' Exchange Bldg., San Francisco, Cal.; Chairman, Exhibits, Chief August Gerstung, Elizabeth, N. J.

Oct. 22-24—KANSAS STATE FIRE CHIEFS and FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS and WOMEN'S AUXILIARY. 13th and 42nd Annual Conventions and 3d Meeting, respectively, Liberal, Kan. Secretary, Chief K. D. Doyle, Wamego, Kan.

New Plant for Harrington-Seaberg

Construction will start soon on a four-story plant in Moline, Ill., for the Harrington-Seaberg Corporation, estimated to cost $75,000. The building will be immediately west of the Milwaukee passenger station. Floor space of the plant will be more than doubled.

The first floor will be used for shipping and receiving, storage and heavy machine work; the second floor for general machine work, traffic signal assembling; the third floor for offices and engineering, experimenting and inspection, sign flasher and traffic control device assembling; the fourth floor will be used for fire and police signal system assembling, and also for assembling switchboard and central office equipment.

The officers of the company are Severin Seaberg, president; Axel Carlson, vice-president; C. Ludwig Anderson, secretary, and Carl Bergstedt, George Strombeck, and Ernest Freeberg, directors. The business last year amounted to $260,118.

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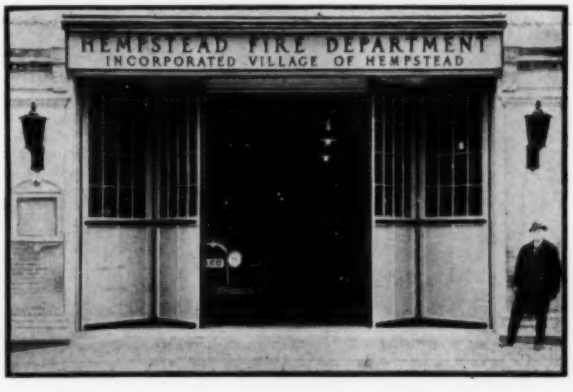

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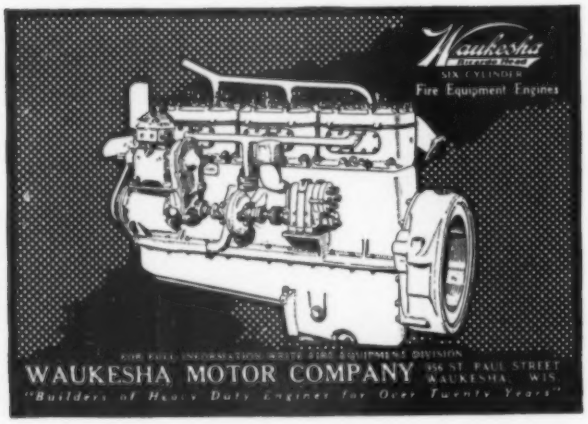
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Fire Engineering

FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Dawson, Pa., Considers Fire Protection—A meeting was held in Dawson, Pa., to consider the matter of fire protection.

North Wales, Pa., May Buy Pumper—North Wales, Pa., is considering the purchase of a pumper.

Manning, Ia., Buys Pumper—A 500-gallon pumper has been purchased for Manning, Ia.

Syracuse, N. Y., Wants New Apparatus—Syracuse, N. Y., will purchase three new pieces of apparatus.

Prosser, Wash., Buys Apparatus—Prosser, Wash., has purchased a triple combination pumper for $6,450.

Potsdam, N. Y., Buys Pumper—Potsdam, N. Y., has purchased a 500-gallon pumper for $6,000.

Ft. Wayne, Ind., to Have New Stations—Bids have been received for the erection of a fire station in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Promotions Made in Hartford, Conn.—Twenty promotions have been made in the Hartford, Conn., fire department.

Salem, N. J., May Buy Chemical Car—Bids have been received in Salem, N. J., to supply the town with a chemical car.

South Bend, Ind., Has Quarterly Inspection—Firemen of South Bend, Ind., have started on their quarterly inspection of the business section.

Appleton, Wis., Delays Apparatus Purchase—The purchase of fire apparatus in Appleton, Wis., has been delayed to permit the committee to investigate the merits of various makes.

Schenectady to Soon Start Work on House—There will be no delay in the construction of the central fire headquarters in Schenectady, N. Y.

Former Chief of Lewisburg, Pa., Dead—William N. Wentzel, formerly chief of the fire department of Lewisburg, Pa., died from pneumonia. He was sixty-nine years old.

Glendale, Cal., to Have New Fire Alarm—Glendale, Cal., is making a survey to determine the cost of installing a fire alarm system.

Triadelphia, W. Va., May Purchase Apparatus.—A committee in Triadelphia, W. Va., are making a survey as to the feasibility of purchasing fire apparatus.

Rural Unit Formed in Oakdale, Cal.—A fire organization for the protection of rural property has been formed in Oakdale, Cal., by farmers and ranchers of the district.

Drill Tower Urged for Davenport, Ia.—Chief Peter Denger of Davenport, Ia., has again urged the erection of a drill tower at the central fire station.

Apparatus Donated to Skaneateles, N. Y.—A ladder truck has been presented to Skaneateles, N. Y., in memory of a former resident. Delivery of the truck is expected in August.

Granite Falls, Wash., May Buy Apparatus—The town council of Granite Falls, Wash., is considering the purchase of a chemical car equipped with ladders.

Elgin Farmers Have Chemical Car—The Elgin Farm Fire Association of Elgin, Ill., have acquired a chemical car mounted on one and one-half-ton truck.

Two Firemen Burned in Harrisburg, Pa.—Two volunteer firemen of Harrisburg, Pa., were badly burned while fighting a dump fire. A pocket of steam formed under the surface and exploded. Flaming pieces of debris were thrown over the men.

Allentown, Pa., Plans for Convention—Plans are being made for the coming convention of the Four-County Firemen's Association to be held in Allentown, Pa., on May 18 and 19. Eighty-five companies are expected to take part in the parade.

New Castle, Pa., to Have New Station—It is expected that the new fire station being erected in New Castle, Pa., will be completed by May 1. There will be a large recreation room and a dormitory on the second floor.

Kansas City, Mo., to Have Drill Tower—Work has been started on the erection of a five-story steel framework drill tower in Kansas City, Mo. It will measure sixteen feet square. T. J. Hardwick, district chief is to be drill master.

Meyersdale, Pa., Plans for Convention—A meeting was held in Meyersdale, Pa., to plan for the coming convention of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association which will be held on August 13-18.

Stills Constitute Fire Menace—Operation of private stills in the manufacture of liquor in dwellings, constitute a serious fire menace, according to a report of the sub-committee of the Massachusetts Safety Council.

Amesbury, Mass., Celebrates Opening of New House—Engine Company No. 1 and Ladder Company 1 of Amesbury, Mass., gave a complimentary banquet and entertainment in the high school to celebrate the opening of the new fire house.

Helena, Mont., Raises Firemen's Pay—The pay of the firement in Helena, Mont., Will be increased from $130 a month to $145 a month. It was pointed out that the average salary of a worker in that city was $150 a month.

Portland, Ore., to Have New Station—Bids have been opened in Portland, Ore., for the construction of a new fire station. The building will house all of the fire alarm equipment now in the city hall.

Tournament to be Held in Battle Creek, Ia.—The tournament of the Maple Valley Firemen's Association will be held in Battle Creek, Ia., on July 3. A preparatory meeting was held in Wall Lake, Ia., at which eight towns were represented.

Nassau Firemen to Meet in Port Washington—The annual tournament of the Nassau County Firemen's Association will be held in Port Washington, L. I., N. Y., some time in June. G. W. Lane of Glen Cove is secretary.

Camden, N. J., Tests New Fire Apparatus—New fire apparatus costing $45,000 has been tested in Camden, N. J. The apparatus includes two combination chemical and hose cars and two 750-gallon pumpers.

Hoy Again Elected Norristown Chief—Peter V. Hoy has been re-elected chief of the Norristown, Pa., fire department. This will mark his thirtieth term. After the annual meeting the men were entertained at an informal dinner by Chief Hoy in the basement of the Norris engine house.

Fire District Formed Near Berkeley, Cal.—The Kensington Fire District has been formed, embracing territory adjoining Berkeley, Cal. A special tax has been voted to install a fire department. Prof. Joel E. Hildebrandt of the University of California has been elected fire commissioner.

Altra, Ia., to Furnish Rural Protection—Four towns adjacent to Altra, Ia., have contributed $1,500 for the purchase of a chemical car for their own fire protection needs. The apparatus will be manned by volunteer firemen in Altra. Previous to this move, apparatus from town responded to rural fires.

Randolph, Wis., to Purchase Apparatus—A community fire apparatus will be purchased in Randolph, Wis. The village will contribute about $1,200 and the farmers will contribute the balance towards the $5,000 machine. Farmers within a radius of five miles supported the purchase.

Vernon, N. Y., Honors Retiring Chief—Vernon Meyers, who is retiring as chief of the Vernon, N. Y., fire department was honored at the annual meeting of the department. Bert Hughes has been elected as chief. A luncheon was served in honor of Mr. Meyers.

Meadville, Pa., to Honor Memory of Chief—Plans have been completed for the erection of a memorial in Meadville, Pa., to the memory of the late Chief Howard Dowdell who was head of the department for seventeen years. The monument may be dedicated on Firemen's memorial day—the second Sunday in June.

West Chester, Pa., Chief Injured—Walton E. White chief of the West Grove Fire Company in West Chester, Pa., had several ribs broken and a shoulder wrenched when he fell from the fire apparatus and was caught underneath the wheels of the truck. It was necessary to lift the apparatus to free his body.

Syracuse, N. Y., to Buy Apparatus—Syracuse, N. Y., is secking an appropriation of $44,000 for the purchase of a ladder truck and two pumpers. One engine is needed for Eastwood, one for Genesee Manor or the Salt Springs section, and the ladder truck is required for emergency use.

Camden Adds More Firemen—Twelve new firemen have been added to the force in Camden, N. J. This means that each of the companies will have fourteen men. At present there are 194 men in the department including a colored company of fourteen men.

Plans Made for Indiana Firemen's Convention—Plans are being made for the state convention of the Indiana Firemen's Association, the Northern Indiana Industrial and Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the Indiana Fire Chiefs' Association which will be held in Terre Haute, Ind., on July 17-19. There will be a number of fire department contests.

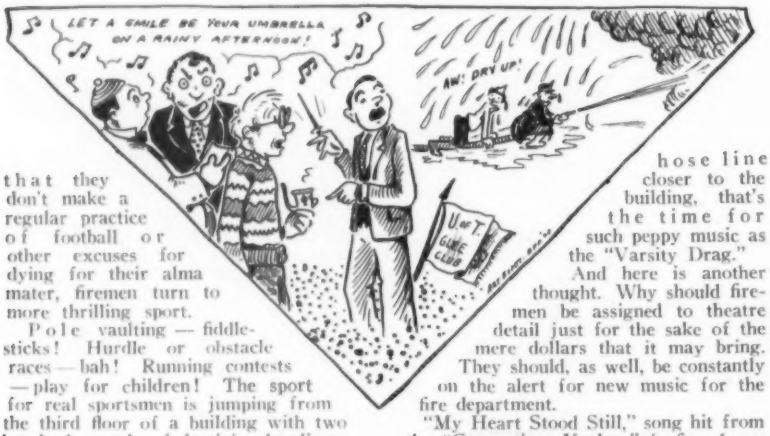
FALSE ALARMS

CHEERING SQUADS NEEDED IN FIRE-FIGHTING FIELD

While firemen were fighting a fire in the medical building of the University of Toronto, Canada, students gathered on the lawns opposite the building and cheered the fire-fighters.

And why not?

Firemen go to school. They study hydraulics, chemistry and subjects equivalent to college courses. While it is true that they don't make a regular practice of football or other excuses for dying for their alma mater, firemen turn to more thrilling sport.



Pole vaulting — fiddlesticks! Hurdle or obstacle races — bah! Running contests — play for children! The sport for real sportsmen is jumping from the third floor of a building with two hundred pounds of feminine loveliness.

It is considered the proper thing to cheer at basketball, football or other athletic contests. Imagine how inspiring it would be to a fireman holding his shivering bundle of humanity to hear:

"Here's to Tom. Here's to the girl. Shove her down. Shove her down."

Anyway it would be a relief to Tom to follow instructions.

Then again, visualize a fireman with an unusually fair maiden in his arms, waiting for a ladder to be raised. That's when a rousing good cheer is needed to cure palpitation of the heart. It might work for the fire-fighter, but then—

"Two, four, six, eight,

"Whom do we appreciate,

"The girl. The girl. The girl."

Nor is a cheering squad on the side lines the only thing that's necessary. Each major fire should have the glee club accompanied by the fire department band.

Should the wind shift so that the nozzle men on one line will get drenched from the spray of another stream, how reassuring it must be to the men to look back at the glee club sheltered in some doorway singing:

"How dry I am. How dry I am—"

Or as the ladder men clutching the brick work, worm their way on the outside from one window to another, the glee club should oblige by singing that delightful nursery rhyme—

"In and out the window,

"In and out the window,

"While we are all so gay."

Not all firemen appreciate such classics. But a glee club leader or a bandmaster endowed with the average amount of initiative could adapt a few of the many songs that emerge through the loud speaker to pester "my friends of the radio audience." There are just oodles of such songs and an infinite number of applications.

Picture a fireman under a torrent of water cascading from an upper floor and blowing out water like a walrus, listening to that encouraging melody, "Let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy afternoon." Or as three or four mud-bespattered men try to drag a slimy hose line closer to the building, that's the time for such peppy music as the "Varsity Drag."

And here is another thought. Why should firemen be assigned to theatre detail just for the sake of the mere dollars that it may bring. They should, as well, be constantly on the alert for new music for the fire department.

"My Heart Stood Still," song hit from the "Connecticut Yankee," is fine for a ladder company. "What am I Going to do," from the play "Funny Face" should be adopted as the official song of the fire department rookies.

TIME TO PREPARE

An insurance agent must be an aggressor. He must be constantly out of his office trying to sell policies. That is why he was surprised when a man walked in and stated that he wanted a policy.

The agent was all smiles.

"What kind of insurance do you want, fire or life?"

"I was just married recently. I guess you had better make it accident."

"Have you ridden in that homemade fire engine of the Young American company?"

"I certainly have. And let me tell you, when that pumper comes to a hill, it's there."

A CLOSE CALL

Prohibition raids, marriages or even fires are some of the few things that break up the monotonous existence in a small community. One Sunday afternoon in a colored community in Georgia, the usual promenade was interrupted by the sound of the fire whistle. There was a grand rush to beat the fire apparatus to the blaze.

One darky had a close call when an excited automobilist came within inches of running him down. The one in the car became nervous and started to blow his horn.

Sam was sore, rolled up his sleeve and headed for the driver.

"Whaffo yo' blow yo' ho'n? At ain't gwine do yo' no good."

The driver replied, "Boy, 'at wa'nt my horn. 'At was Gabriel."

CHANGE OF DIET

Only the firemen who are stationed in some outlying station where the meals are prepared by a member of the department, know how difficult it is to operate the dining service to the satisfaction of every one.

As the chef for the week was cleaning his pots, he noticed a fireman enter the kitchen with something in his hand.

"Look here, you ——. I found these in the hash today." He showed a dime and two pennies.

"Sure, don't get excited," said the one with the pan. "You were always complaining about the lack of change in meals."

MATHEWS

(Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.)

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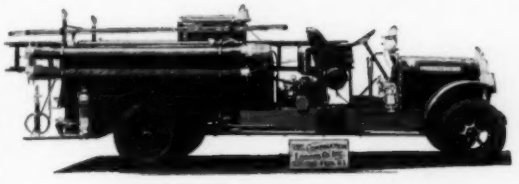

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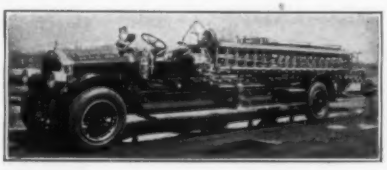

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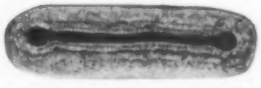

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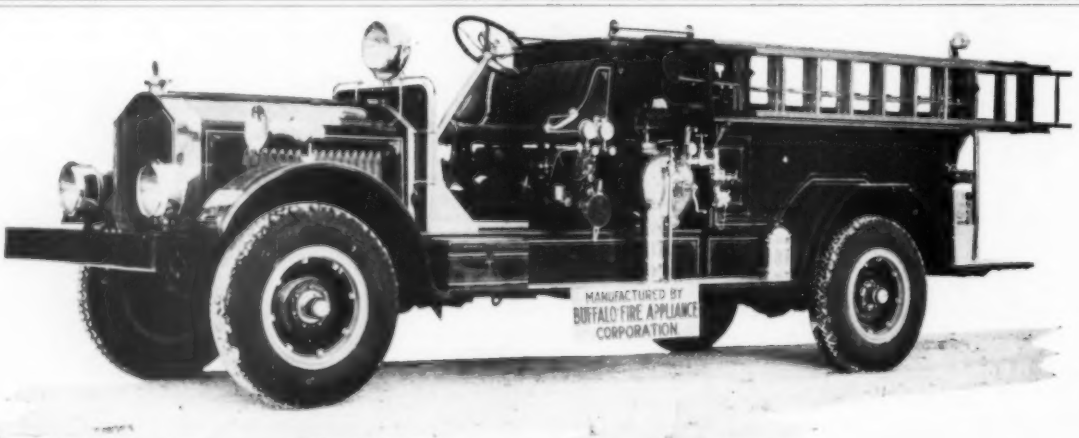

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